TEENS ALLEGE ABUSE AT 'SUPERJAIL', PG 3

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Fire forces shoppers from Macy's

NEW YORK Hundreds of holiday shoppers were evacuated from the flagship Macy's store at Herald Square in New York City yesterday after a fire in an escalator sent smoke throughout the building. No injuries were immediately reported.

The fire occurred in an escalator between the third and fourth floors, the fire department said. The sirens of numerous police and fire trucks on 34th Street blared long after the fire was reported at 4 p.m. on one of the busiest shopping days of the year.

The fire occurred as retail stores in Manhattan were attempting to recover from a foot of snow that fell on the city only hours before. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

News on the Move

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Entertainment pg 42

The celeb 'qwitter'

On the web

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Raptors **Banks shot**

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Raptors' Marcus Banks drives past a pair of New Orleans Hornets yesterday at the Air Canada Centre. Banks had six points off the bench as the Raptors beat the Hornets 98-92. See page 34 to link to exclusive Raptors game reports and highlights.

Frosty message

Grits freeze MPP salaries, expect others to do same

The Liberal government is "trying to lead by example" with a freeze on MPPs' pay that other public sector employers should also consider imposing, says Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Striking a note from one of his political heroes, former U.S. president John F. Kennedy, McGuinty issued a clarion call for sacrifices for the greater good.

"Ask not what your provincial government can impose on you; ask what as a member of the public sector you can bring to the table," the premier said Friday in Ottawa.

"In some ways, those of us within the public sector have been sheltered from the full ravages of this private-sector recession."

> **"Ask not what your provincial government can impose on you; ask what as a member of the public sector you can bring to the table."**
> Dalton McGuinty

The premier, who last week was also musing about selling off Crown assets such as the troubled Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp., declined to specify what belt-tightening measures would be in Finance Minister Dwight Duncan's March budget.

But he did signal he expects hospitals, school boards, colleges and universities, and municipalities to watch closely what his administration is doing.

"We're trying to lead by example. We have frozen our pay," said McGuinty. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Coroner says actress Murphy died of natural causes

Brittany Murphy, the actress who got her start in the sleeper hit Clueless and rose to stardom in 8 Mile before her movie roles declined in recent years, died yesterday in Los Angeles of what appeared to be natural causes, a Los Angeles County coroner's official said. She was 32.

Murphy was pronounced dead at 10:04 a.m. at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, hospital spokeswoman Sally Stewart said.

Murphy was transported to the hospital after the Los Angeles Fire Department responded to a call at 8 a.m. at the home she shared with her husband, British screenwriter Simon Monjack, in the Hollywood Hills.

Brittany Murphy

Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter said Murphy apparently collapsed in the bathroom, and authorities were looking into her medical history.

An official cause of death may not be determined for some time, since toxicology tests will be required, but "it appears to be natural," Winter said. He said an autopsy was planned for today or tomorrow.

Los Angeles police have opened an investigation into Murphy's death, Officer Norma Eisenman said. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Local

TTC sets United Way record

Toronto Transit Commission employees and pensioners have raised $1,364,652 for the United Way, a new TTC record. Pizza sales in the subway, payroll donations and the annual TTC Idol are just a few of the dozens of events held during the 2009 United Way campaign. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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INDEX

Canada Pg 14
World Pg 24
Comment Pg 30
Business Pg 31
Sports Pg 34
Celebrity Buzz Pg 45

Tomorrow's Metro

Comment
Lawrence Martin gives us his take on the Canadian political scene.

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Abuse at 'superjail:' Teens

250 formal complaints filed since end of summer

A Toronto teen arrived at the Jarvis Street youth court last month with black eyes, bloodied clothing and abrasions on his swollen head — an alarming testament to the escalating violence inside Ontario's new "superjail" for kids.

The slight 17-year-old says he was brutalized regularly by fellow inmates throughout the 13 days he spent at the Roy McMurtry Youth Centre in Brampton awaiting a bail hearing.

"From what we understand, nothing was done to prevent or stop the attacks," his attorney Veronique Henry told the Toronto Star.

"When they come in with injuries like my client did … you can't say this child is crying wolf."

More than 160 teens have filed 250 formal complaints about the facility with Ontario's Children and Youth Advocate since late summer. Most of these detainees haven't even been convicted of the charges facing them, but are awaiting a bail hearing or trial.

Despite a sweeping internal review, prompted by concerns from the advocate's office and brought to light in the Star last month, allegations of violence have risen 15 per cent. An ambulance was dispatched to the 192-bed, state-of-the-art superjail eight times within a six-month period, suggesting injuries so severe they couldn't be treated at the jail's medical unit.

During the past few weeks, four teens who have been detained at the jail shared their stories with the Star. They described a brutal hazing from fellow inmates while staff turned a blind eye, being deprived of medication, being locked in isolation for days wearing only boxer shorts, and being subject to excessive use of force by staff. The identities of these teens are protected by the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

When a reporter tried to interview a fifth teen who told his lawyer he would like to share details about the abuses he suffered, a halfway house funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, which also oversees the jail, called police to launch an investigation. The reporter hadn't even contacted the youth directly but notified a supervisor at the home of her intent to interview the youth.

A ministry spokeswoman couldn't explain why police were called. She denied a claim the teen's file had been flagged with a note for police to launch a probe in the event a reporter tried to contact the youth.

When asked about specific allegations of abuse at the jail, Minister Laurel Broten told the Star, "It's upsetting to hear."

Broten pledged, "It's something that I'm going to look into further."

A week later, the ministry responded by email:

"Where there is an allegation of a serious occurrence at any of our youth facilities, including RMYC, they are taken very seriously and an investigation is initiated and appropriate action is taken."

Irwin Elman, Ontario's advocate for children and youth, said he's still waiting on the results of eight investigations dating to September.

The union representing jail workers blames insufficient staffing. "Every day we're running short," said Bruce England, a youth services officer at the Roy and president of OPSEU Local 290. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Roy McMurtry Youth Centre in Brampton, where allegations of abuse from 160 teens have launched 250 formal complaints.

"It's upsetting to hear. It's something that I'm going to look into further."
Laurel Broten, minister

Survey says H1N1 dealt with 'OK' by governments

Flu Outbreak

Canadians think governments at all three levels have done an OK job of handling the H1N1 flu, though many also think the risk was exaggerated, a new poll suggests.

The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey suggests that as concern is waning among Canadians, they are generally satisfied with how their governments responded to the pandemic.

73% Survey respondents who assessed Ottawa's performance as good or fair in dealing with H1N1.

Nearly three-quarters — or 73 per cent — of those who took part in the survey assessed Ottawa's performance as good or fair, and the numbers were similar at the provincial and municipal levels. That's up from 61 per cent last month, when there were distribution challenges with the vaccine and lineups at clinics were long.

"It struck me some of the things that were most likely to be causing people a problem at the last time that we asked had been taken care of," said Doug Anderson, senior vice-president of Harris-Decima.

The survey also found most polled have already received the vaccine or decided they won't be getting it. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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168

No evidence Makniashvili in Alberta: RCMP

RCMP say there is no evidence a missing young woman from Toronto is in Alberta or recently visited the province. Earlier this month Mounties looked into reports that Mariam Makniashvili, 18, was possibly seen in Grande Prairie. There was also an earlier report that she was seen in October near Calgary. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Strike fears loom

Threats remind mature college students of work layoffs

After a hard year of unemployment and job uncertainty some people flocked to colleges that offered the promise of a new career path, but worry over the possibility of a strike across college campuses in Ontario has some mature students comparing the situation to another layoff.

"A lot of us, after getting laid off and going through all that uncertainty, looked to the education system as a place of safety," said Don DeSchutter, 44, who is in his final year of a human resources program at Fanshawe College in London.

"People who are getting ready to get into second careers may not be able to do that now, their life is in the balance," he added, painting the desperate situation mature students are in as whispers of "strike" emanate through college classrooms and corridors.

Students in 24 community colleges provincewide are worried about a possible strike after talks between Colleges Ontario and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, which represents 9,000 teachers, counsellors and librarians, broke down on Tuesday. The union has set a strike vote for Jan. 13.

Last year's strike at York University by teaching assistants, contract faculty and graduate assistants, affected about 50,000 students and lasted 12 weeks. The faculty were legislated back to work by the province. In 2006, OPSEU led a strike that shut down colleges for 21 days.

A strike this time around would be especially challenging to students relying on a college program to jump-start a new career after a tough recession.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Second Career

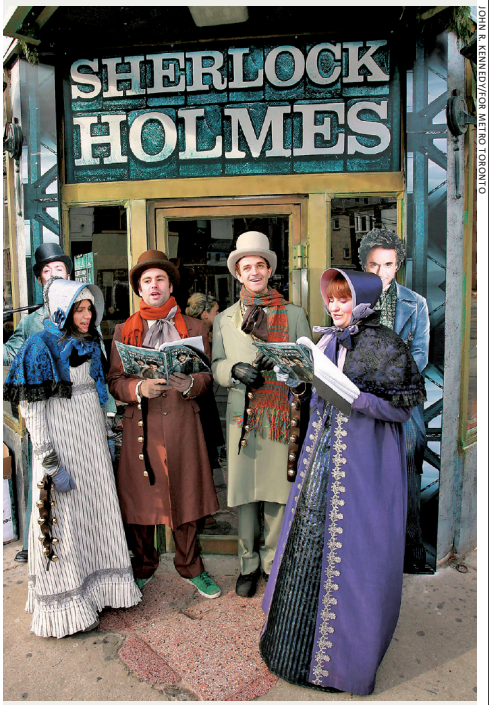
- Since 2008, Ontario's Second Career program, which offers skills, training and financial support to laid off-workers, approved over 21,000 people for the program.

News in brief

ASSAULT A 12-year-old girl was playing in the hallway of a Scarborough apartment building when she was sexually assaulted by a stranger Saturday, police said. The girl was in the hall of a building near Ellesmere Rd. and Morningside Ave. around 6 p.m. when a man walked out of an apartment and assaulted her. The man is described as approximately 30-years-old with brown skin, a slim build, black hair balding at the back and a goatee. He is about six-feet-tall, and was dressed in a hoodie, a black jacket, dark jeans and light brown boots. Anyone who can help police track him down is asked to call the Sex Crimes Unit at 416-808-7474 or leave an anonymous tip with Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS (8477).

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Carolling **Singing for Sherlock**



JOHN R. KENNEDY/FOR METRO TORONTO

A group of carollers spread some holiday joy at the corner of Queen and McCaul streets on Friday in front of a storefront Warner Bros. has decorated to promote the new movie Sherlock Holmes, which opens on Christmas Day.

Police raid club in Chinatown

BUST An early morning raid in a Chinatown retail and office complex has shut down an illicit "drug den," police said.

Around 2:30 a.m. yesterday, vice and drug squad officers used a search warrant to raid the club, on the second floor of an office and retail complex that also houses the Lucky Moose Food Mart, at Dundas and Beverly streets.

About 85 people were at the club, called the Film Lounge, when police arrived.

"The entire operation was under the table," said Det. Frank Giancola. "It didn't have a liquor license — it was a pure drug den."

Giancola said the club had been operating for about a year.

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Warning

- Most of the people at the club were let off with a warning, but 15 were charged with trafficking and possession.

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One accident may have led to second
A car that flipped in the westbound lanes of the Gardiner Expressway early Sunday may have caused a second accident in the opposite direction. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JIM RANKIN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nina Mazar and Chen-Bo Zhong, researchers with the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, co-authored a study that found students who chose green products were less likely to act altruistically afterwards than those who were simply exposed to green products.

Balancing the good green with the bad

Buying green may help save the planet, but a new study suggests it might also make you more prone to cheat, steal and be selfish.

In a paper to be published in an upcoming issue of the journal Psychological Science, University of Toronto researchers Nina Mazar and Chen-Bo Zhong studied how students behaved after being given the option of purchasing environmentally friendly products, like organic yogurt or biodegradable laundry detergent, or conventional items.

They found students who chose green products were less likely to act altruistically afterwards than those who were simply exposed to green products.

The study, said Mazar, an assistant professor of marketing with the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, builds on research into the idea of "moral regulation" — that people either consciously or unconsciously balance bad deeds with good ones.

"What has been shown so far is that when we engage in actions that give us some kind of moral, warm glow — let's call it that — that afterwards we are more likely to transgress," Mazar said.

"What we don't know, and what the interesting question is, is how much is really a conscious, deliberate thought process? We don't know that."

While the findings might deflate the self-righteous air of those who brag about bringing canvas bags to the grocery store, Mazar says it definitely shouldn't be seen as a condemnation of environmentally-friendly purchasing habits.

That, she feels, would be a gross misunderstanding of the point of the research. The study shows we should be aware of our tendency to treat buying green as a moral act, said Mazar, rather than as our responsibility to the planet.

"What we wanted to point out is if you start to moralize particular actions … then there is a danger that people get this kind of warm glow. And that can be used afterwards to engage in less, maybe, social or altruistic behaviour," said Mazar. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tentative deal sees driving tests back Jan. 4

Ontario's driving examiners will be back at work Jan. 4 in most communities across the province after reaching a tentative agreement to end a long strike with their employer over the weekend.

In an email to The Canadian Press, Paul Dalglish, DriveTest's managing director, says most centres will re-open Jan. 4 at 1 p.m., but DriveTest's "Travel points," found in smaller communities, will open Jan 5.

To address the backlog, the company will also be hiring 100 new employees in the next four weeks to deal with the crunch, which is expected to last several months.

There is a blackout on details of negotiations, but Dalglish says the union's bargaining committee is recommending that all employees accept the agreement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Strike details

- Some 590 DriveTest employees walked off the job Aug. 21 after talks broke off with their employer, Serco DES Inc.
- The main sticking points between the two sides included wages, benefits, and a proposal to increase the number of part-time employees at the expense of full-time jobs.
- The strike affected 93 full-time and part-time DriveTest sites, which grant or renew licences to novice drivers and those older than 80.

News in brief

TRANSIT The Ontario government is giving Ottawa $600 million to help the city construct a rapid transit network. Ottawa's proposed Rapid Transit Plan would connect with other transportation networks and include light rail and bus rapid transit. Premier Dalton McGuinty said the project represents the largest single investment in transit infrastructure in the city's history. The government says it is committed to helping the city increase its public transit use to 30 per cent by 2031. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Perogy Chef passes

Well-known CNE fixture Boris Hirniak has died of lung cancer. Hirniak, affectionately known as Bo or the Perogy Chef, ran the Naleway Food Ltd. stand in the Ex's food building for 24 years. METRO NEWS SERVICES

West Donlands a Pan Am winner

When Toronto was named host of the 2015 Pan Am Games in November, Waterfront Toronto president John Campbell felt a sudden boost of adrenaline.

Campbell, who was standing in a hotel ballroom in Guadalajara, Mexico, along with the rest of the Toronto delegation, knew the win would mean development of the West Donlands, on the books for years, will finally get built.

And as the man in charge of waterfront development, who often hears the question, "Why isn't anything happening down there?" Campbell believes this win is critical to pushing revitalization efforts.

That's because the site, entirely owned by the provincial government, will be home to the $1-billion athletes' village — expected to house 8,500 athletes, coaches and officials — when the Games are held in July 2015. That is on top of the $1.4-billion budget to host the Games. The secure village area will include a dining hall to seat 5,000, welcome centre, transit hub, medical clinic and temporary practice training facilities including a running track and pool.

When the Games end, the village will be turned into a mix of housing including affordable and market-rate, though the actual mix has not been set yet.

"The Games will get the overall project moving and get people focused," Campbell said. "A deadline forces people to deliver. It creates a discipline to the process."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pan Am Games bid chair David Peterson, from left, Minister of Health Promotion Margarett Best, Canadian Olympic Committee president Michael Chambers and Premier Dalton McGuinty pose with the Games bid book in May. Winning the Games has pushed development of the West Donlands to the forefront as the area will house the athlete's village.

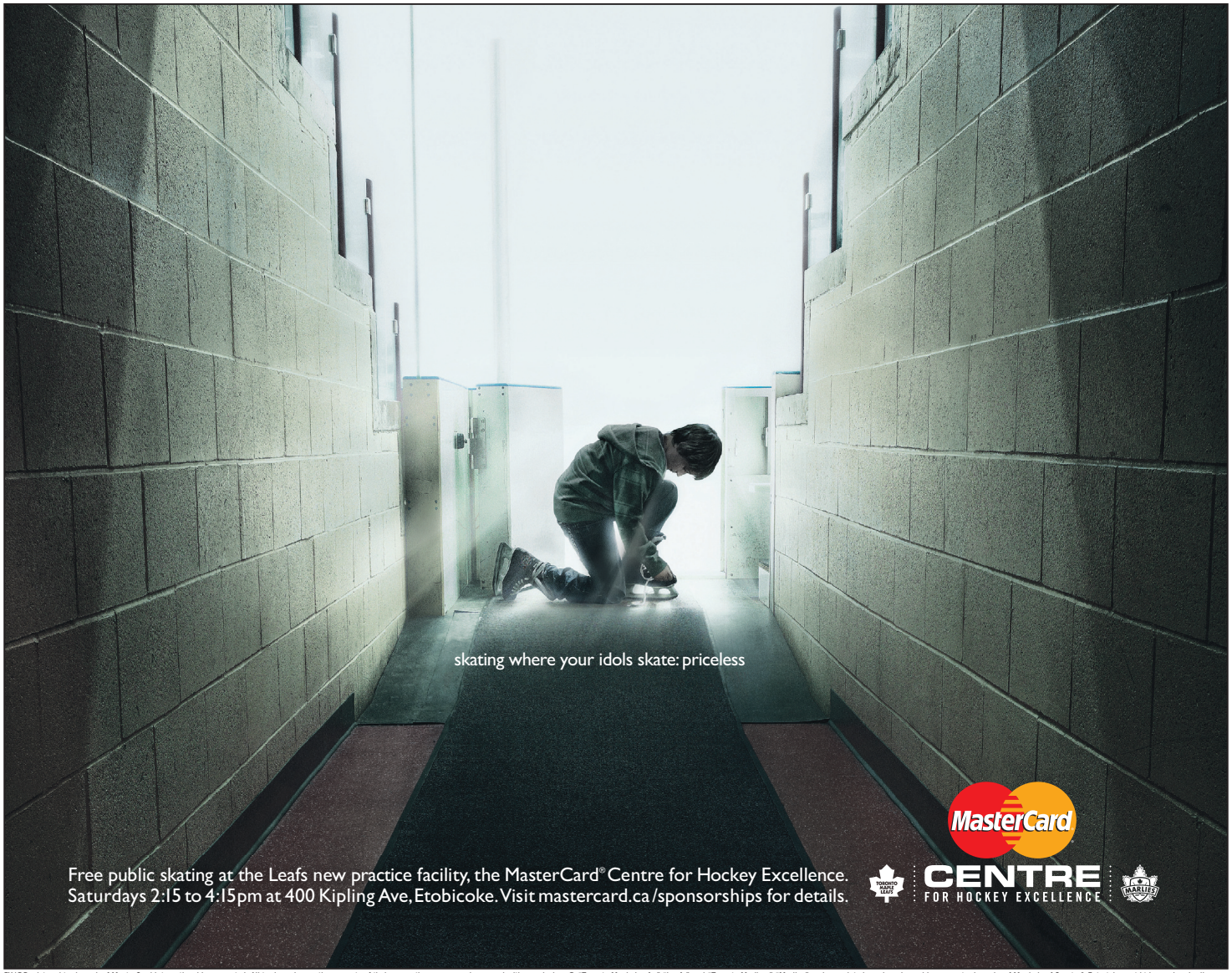
Accused to plead not guilty in Stafford slaying

HEARING The lawyer for the man charged with first-degree murder and kidnapping in Tori Stafford's slaying says her client will plead not guilty when the case goes to trial.

Attorney Laura Giordano said Michael Rafferty has elected to have a preliminary hearing, which is tentatively scheduled to run from June 21 through July 13.

Rafferty is one of two people charged in Stafford's death. His co-accused, Terri-Lynne McClintic, last week waived her right to a preliminary hearing and chose instead to go straight to trial.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Mississauga mayor takes turn with the torch

Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion showed she could keep pace with runners decades younger than her during the Olympic torch relay Saturday morning. Flanked by hundreds of onlookers, the 88-year-old mayor jogged with the torch for about 400 metres before passing it to the next torchbearer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Women's bookstore struggles to survive

Nearly two decades after almost being destroyed in a firebombing, the Toronto Women's Bookstore is once again fighting for its survival.

Last week, the 36-year-old bookseller issued a desperate plea to its patrons, revealing that it needed funds urgently to stay open.

The country once had upwards of a dozen such stores, but those numbers have shrunk drastically: According to women's rights website section15.ca, feminist bookstores in Calgary, Saskatoon, Hamilton, London, Ont., and Sudbury have all closed their doors since 2004.

The Toronto Women's Bookstore recently tweeted that there were only 21 stores worldwide, down from 125 in 1994.

"I think it's much more the difficulty of small independent bookstores surviving when Chapters controls 70 per cent of the market."
Judy Rebick

But those in the women's movement say it's market forces — not a declining interest in feminism — that's bringing the stores closer to the final chapter.

"I think it's much more the difficulty of small independent bookstores surviving when Chapters controls 70 per cent of the market," said Judy Rebick, a well-known activist and writer who sat on the bookstore's board of directors in the 1990s.

"Everything is done to satisfy them. So if you have a small press, it's very difficult to get your books sold. And it's very difficult for small bookstores to survive because they can't match the discounts."

Founded in 1973, the Toronto store was at the forefront of the women's rights movement, said Rebick.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oakville **Extreme portage**

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Adam van Koeverden, an Olympic medallist in sprint kayak, has his arms full Saturday, carrying a kayak and the Olympic flame through Oakville. **Follow the Olympic torch's journey with an interactive map at metronews.ca/sports.**

House sale wrapped — literally

HOLIDAY Stuart Smith's gift-wrapping tips: Avoid windy days, watch out for bushes, use lots of duct tape.

The results may not be perfect, but they sure make a house look pretty. And that was the idea when Smith, an Oshawa realtor, covered a client's new home in gold and silver paper Saturday.

"Wow, it looks like something out of Star Trek," said John Cannito, 30, admiring his purchase. "This is pretty surprising. Santa came early."

The wrapping, finished off with red ribbon made from plastic tablecloths, was a fitting conclusion to Cannito's search for a property, said Smith, who did his homework by stockpiling waste-bound ends of rolls from a paper company and recruiting helpers.

But it turns out there are far more corners on a house than on a shoebox, Smith found, especially when it's a 1,700-square-foot backsplit with doors, windows, nooks and crannies.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

COLIN MCCONNELL /TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New homeowner Joe Cannito, left, picks up the keys to his place, which realtor Stuart Smith gift-wrapped for him.

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Thieves make off with Christmas donations in Riceville
The Riceville Food Bank in eastern Ontario is appealing for donations after thieves stole Christmas hampers filled with food, turkeys and toys. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRTC reviewing new cellphone contender

After being slapped down by the government over Globalive, the CRTC says it is reviewing the Canadian ownership bona fides of a second new entrant to the country's wireless market.

The federal regulator says it will hold an internal review of Toronto-based Public Mobile to see if its complex ownership structure is Canadian enough.

The commission said the issues involving the new regional entrant are similar to new national carrier Globalive.

The CRTC said it was cognizant of the fact that Ottawa overruled its rejection of Globalive, but did not consider Globalive a precedent since the government "stated that the decision to vary is specific to the facts of this case."

It said Public Mobile's ownership "appears to comply" with the Telecom Act, but added "control in fact" involves equity from a number of foreign investors. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Public Mobile

- Last spring, Public Mobile paid $52 million to operate in the relatively uncontested G-band of the spectrum, where it has few rivals. It hopes to primarily serve Ontario.

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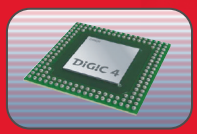

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Police officer faces fraud, theft charges

A municipal police officer faces six charges of fraud and theft for allegedly stealing $5,000 from the Thetford Mines police association. Daniel Lemieux served as secretary-treasurer for the association representing some 30 police officers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Horses break loose in Brockville

It's not unusual for Christmas shoppers to feel like they're in the middle of a stampede, but that's literally what happened Saturday morning in Brockville. Police say five horses escaped from the nearby St. Alban's Stable and galloped down Highway 2 into the eastern Ontario city. The horses are back at the stable now, and police are looking into whether charges need to be laid. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ministers met Red Cross head

MacKay's office flagged concerns from organization's president

Three federal cabinet ministers and a senior government official met the head of the International Red Cross in the fall of 2006 as the humanitarian organization tried to focus Canada's attention on alleged abuses in Afghan prisons, The Canadian Press has learned.

Precisely what Jakob Kellenberger told Peter MacKay, Gordon O'Connor, Stockwell Day and Robert Greenhill, then the president of the Canadian International Development Agency, in the Sept. 26, 2006 meetings is blanketed by diplomatic secrecy.

MacKay was then Foreign Affairs minister, O'Connor was at Defence and Day was Public Safety minister overseeing Corrections Canada officers in Kandahar. While the details of the meeting are secret, enough was said about Afghanistan to generate a report from MacKay's office a month later that flagged the Red Cross president's concerns.

The contents of the report, one of thousands of documents filed in the Military Police Complaints Commission investigation of torture allegations, are censored. The email was titled: "Re: meeting with ICRC president re detention issues."

The Conservative government has insisted it never received direct warnings about possible Afghan torture of Canadian-transferred prisoners, although MacKay has conceded that general concerns were heard almost from the moment the government took office in early 2006.

The fact the Red Cross meetings took place raises further questions about what the federal government knew and the kind of warnings they received in those critical early months.

Officially, the Red Cross would only say the talks focused on topics including Afghanistan, humanitarian law in modern conflicts and co-operation with Canada. Unofficially, sources in Geneva said the agency was growing frustrated over Canada's tardy notification of its handover of captured suspected Taliban to Afghan authorities, making it difficult to track the detainees.

A spokesperson for MacKay referred questions to the foreign affairs department, which declined to comment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE PAGE 21

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Peter MacKay, then foreign affairs minister, met with the head of the International Red Cross in 2006.

B.C. solicitor general wants to combine gang task forces

CRIME After a bloody year of gang warfare, B.C.'s solicitor general wants the province's various police task forces and units combined into one formidable intelligence team.

B.C. Solicitor General Kash Heed says plans are underway to combine the Integrated Gang Task Force, the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit and the Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Unit into one unit. The administrations of the three have already been blended.

Currently, the three groups work in separate locations on separate gang issues.

But Heed said in an interview with The Canadian Press that he believes the problem of organized crime and gang activity is the Number One public safety issue in the province.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Gordon Campbell

Fighting the "alarming" and "brazen" attacks will take a combined intelligence squad that has broken down the communication silos among units.

Heed said other policing resources may also eventually be blended into the mega unit.

"We have to make sure that the energy in all of them are working towards what we want to accomplish," he said.

The team's creation emerges out of Premier Gordon Campbell's plan announced at the peak of the violence last February, Heed said.

Campbell announced more police officers, more prosecutors, more jails and courts and tougher laws.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Games won't bring expected jump in crime, says expert

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

OLYMPICS As hundreds of thousands of well-heeled visitors pour into Vancouver for the 2010 Winter Games, common wisdom has it that along with them will come thieves, prostitutes, scam artists and other crooks emboldened by the stretched resources of police.

Wrong, says a noted U.S. criminologist who has studied Games security and policing. It turns out the crime rate actually falls during the Games, says Scott Decker, director of Arizona State University's school of criminology and criminal justice.

Decker observed Olympic security and policing from the inside at the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta and the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

"We're not anticipating a negative impact to the people that would regularly call us with day-to-day crime-type calls." Const. Lindsay Houghton

He co-authored a 2007 study of routine policing during the Salt Lake Olympics that found calls for police service didn't rise appreciably during the Games period and the number of arrests actually dropped. However, the allocation of roughly 40 per cent of Salt Lake City police officers to Games-related duties meant police took more time on average to answer those calls.

Response times are slower (for less serious offences), for starters, but citizens learn to cope with that," says Decker.

There's also no telling how many mundane crimes were never reported because residents felt police were focused on protecting the Games, he says. Police in Vancouver insist the Olympics won't pre-occupy them to the point where routine policing will suffer.

"We're not anticipating a negative impact to the people who would regularly call us with day-to-day crime-type calls," Vancouver police spokesperson Const. Lindsay Houghton says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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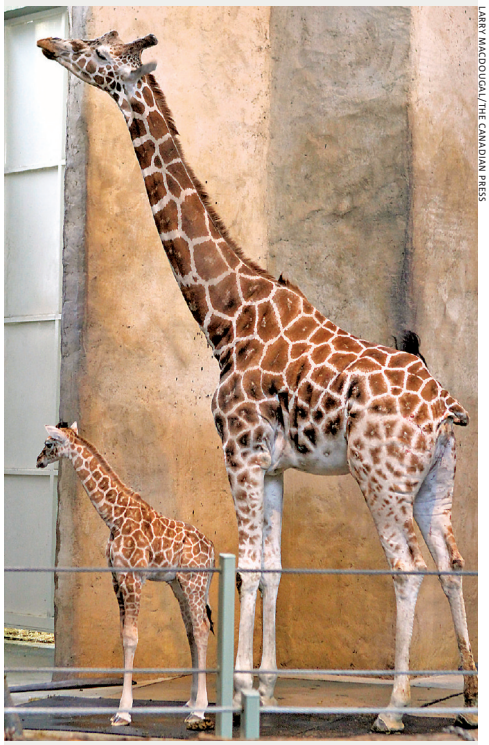
Alberta decides against revoking snacks for mental-health patients

The Alberta government is reversing a controversial policy change that would have seen toiletries and snacks taken away from mental-health patients at Alberta Hospital. The policy was part of a plan to standardize supplies across the province to save Alberta Health Services $70,000 a year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calgary **New addition**



LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two-week-old giraffe Sophie, the newest addition to the Calgary Zoo, is dwarfed by mother Mardi on Friday.

Storm heads to East Coast

Many flights cancelled after U.S. cities buried under snow

A fierce storm that pounded the U.S. is slowly moving into Atlantic Canada while Americans dig out from the aftermath.

Among those affected by the storm are the Montreal Canadiens, who are snowed under in Uniondale, New York.

The NHL team's plane couldn't take off after the Habs made their way to the airport after their 3-0 victory over the Islanders.

The players were forced to return to their hotel and were expected to catch a flight yesterday afternoon for a game in Atlanta today.

Pearson

- Toronto Pearson International Airport has also felt the storm's impact with more than 50 flights cancelled.

Dozens of flights between Canadian airports and cities on the American eastern seaboard have been cancelled this weekend.

Atlantic Canada will feel some of the effects of the storm, but forecasters predict it will weaken by the time it moves through Canada's east coast.

In southwestern Nova Scotia, Digby, Yarmouth, and Shelburne counties were expecting up to 25 centimetres of snow, while Halifax and Lunenberg County could get up to 10 centimetres.

Up to 40 centimetres of snow buried Washington and Philadelphia and New York City was heavily blanketed.

About 800 flights at the New York City area's three major airports remained cancelled despite clear conditions on the runways.

One runway at Dulles International Airport in Washington was open by yesterday morning. Officials expected Reagan National to be open for business later yesterday.

Both airports anticipate a busy day with people catching their flights set for yesterday and those who were unable to fly Friday and Saturday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 24

Writer collects travellers' tales at airport

HALIFAX Jon Tattrie sits amidst the hum of a busy airport, appearing impervious to the steady movement around him.

He taps on the keys of his laptop, feeding it with stories of travellers who eagerly recount the highs and lows of their most memorable journeys over the years.

Tattrie, a freelance writer, collected the tales of woe and wonder over two days at the Halifax airport where he immediately started weaving them into a story, which people could read on a large video monitor as they passed by.

Sitting at a small table underneath a departures sign, the Halifax-based writer quietly waited for people to sidle up to him to share their experiences.

"I expected to have to do a lot of hunting for stories and tracking people down," he said Saturday, looking slightly dishevelled after 32 hours in the same clothes.

"But I just sit here and stories come up to me. There's just a huge range ... People are really into it."

There have been tales of divorce, reconciliation, frustration over the rigours of modern-day travel and excitement at the prospect of seeing far-flung relatives.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Local author Jon Tattrie works on a story at Halifax Stanfield International Airport in Enfield, N.S., on Friday. Tattrie is using conversations with passengers and visitors over a two-day period to provide material for his story. The work in progress is displayed on a monitor and the final product will be put up on the airport website.

Tattrie is blending the real accounts with a fictional character named Dave who has spent the last 10 years trying to make his way home, but never working up the nerve to step on board his plane.

Dave returns to the airport every Christmas, gathering up the stories of strangers in transit.

Tattrie said he came up with the idea after hearing that London's Heathrow Airport hired author Alain de Botton as a writer-in-residence. He spent a week at Heathrow for a book on the airport's inner workings.

Tattrie's final story will be on the airport's website on Dec. 23.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rescuers reject blame for skier's death in B.C.

PAPERS Court documents filed in Vancouver say a Quebec couple made "a deliberate choice" to ski out of bounds at a British Columbia ski resort last February and cannot blame the police and others for the tragic consequences.

In an updated statement of defence, RCMP, the Golden and District Search and Rescue Association and the Kicking Horse Mountain Resort say the husband and wife went out of bounds unprepared and with no knowledge of the terrain.

The new documents, filed in late November, add further details to the original statement of defence that was filed by police, the rescuers and the resort in July.

Gilles Blackburn, 51, filed lawsuits against the three parties in May after his 44-year-old wife Marie-Josee Fortin froze to death during their 10-day ordeal, which began on Feb. 15.

Blackburn is suing for negligence, claiming that between Feb. 17 and 21, all three organizations were informed of SOS signals he stamped into the snow in the mountains near Golden, 700 kilometres northeast of Vancouver, but did not launch a search.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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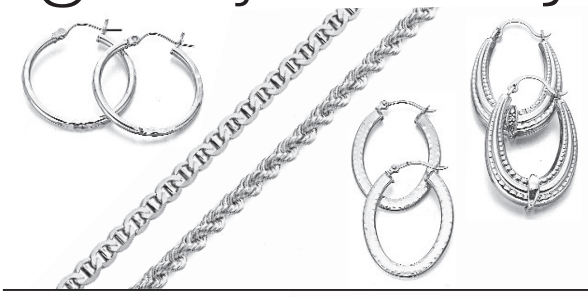

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Union taking legal action against health authorities

One of Saskatchewan's major health-care unions is taking its fight against the province's essential services legislation to the next level. The Service Employees International Union is taking legal action against four of the province's regional health authorities. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada loses its 'cool' label

Conservatives have shifted talk to military power, security from Kyoto

When an internationally known band of subversive "culture jammers" targeted Canada this month in an elaborate climate change hoax, it did more than irritate the office of Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper arrives to speak to reporters during a wrap-up press conference Friday following the United Nations climate change conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The elaborate stunt pulled by the New York-based Yes Men — in which a phoney Canadian policy shift to deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions was announced to the world in Copenhagen, followed by an equally phoney government denunciation of said policy change — appeared to make barely a ripple on Canada's domestic political consciousness.

But it might just signal something else.

Putting Canada into the ranks of other Yes Men targets such as George W. Bush, Dow Chemical and the stodgy World Trade Organization marks a huge shift in the international image of a country that was deemed "rather cool" by influential British magazine The Economist in September 2003.

Back then, the buzz was about Canadian budget surpluses, same-sex marriage, Kyoto and marijuana decriminalization.

Today, Canada is talking tough on crime and stressing military pride, national security, "global energy superpower status," tax cuts and deficits.

Canada enters the final year of the decade with Harper — a conservative thinker once deemed "unelectable" in this country by pollsters and pundits — and his Conservative government firmly in command of the federal political and legislative agenda.

But whether the country has moved to the right is another matter.

Canada was likely never as "cool" as the outside world perceived, nor is it today as uncool as New York underground activists would suggest.

Pollster Allan Gregg of Harris-Decima believes Harper has "learned that showing moderate, balanced, stable, competent government is good politics in this country. He benefits simply from being the prime minister and not doing anything stupid."

The year 2009 encapsulated that decade-long lesson. It began with Harper's minority reeling under the self-made threat of being toppled by a united opposition and ends with the Conservative minority on top and the election drums silent.

While talk of a pending Harper majority may be premature — the party closes 2009 stuck in the same old mid-30s of public opinion approval — there's little doubt of Conservative party success.

Gregg calls it a "slow motion re-drawing of the political map" over the last five years. The Conservatives, he said are "just sort of inching into new territory all the time."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nova Scotia looking at biomass

ENERGY A debate is brewing between the Nova Scotia government, focus groups and environmentalists over the sustainability of harvesting trees and burning low-grade wood to meet the province's energy needs.

This energy source, known as biomass, has been used for heat and electricity in Europe for years and, on a small scale, in many Canadian provinces.

It is being recommended by a government-commissioned consultation team as a component of a provincewide renewable energy strategy, but some worry Nova Scotia doesn't have the necessary regulations in place to go ahead with any large-scale forest biomass projects.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

FATALITY A 32-year-old man from Wasaga Beach is dead after he was struck by a vehicle while walking along the shoulder of River Road West Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Family escapes house fire
A family of five in Oromocto, N.B. escaped their home after a smoke detector alerted them to a fire early yesterday morning. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cancer even harder when you're young

All that Weifun Chang wants for Christmas is to live.

That, and maybe have the strength to hold her 22-month old son.

The 30-year-old woman hasn't been able to do that for the past few months because she couldn't move her left arm. She has also had difficulty walking.

Chang has been getting support from family and other young cancer patients who have dropped by her nome near Montreal to chat and help with the cooking.

But, along with the battle with cancer, they also share another problem: They are all young people who feel abandoned and have slipped through the cracks.

"People think that cancer is an illness for old people and really, when me and my fellow young adult cancer survivors sit in (hospital) waiting rooms, we feel isolated," Chang said

Dr. Petr Kavan, a medical oncologist, says adolescents and young adults with cancer are an "underserved patient population" who don't even take part in clinical trials.

But Kavan has been developing a program with McGill University since 2003 to help young cancer patients. He's also working on national recommendations on how to better serve that segment of the population.

A 2006 report prepared by Cancer Care Ontario, a provincial agency, determined that approximately 10,000 cancers are diagnosed in young adults every year.

It also said almost two-thirds of young adult cancers occur in women. Of those, breast cancer is the most common.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS/PAUL CHIASSON

Thirty-year-old Weifun Chang and her husband Frederic Messier, 36, are struggling to cope with Chang's cancer.

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London bus strike ends
After a month-long strike, the first city buses have returned to the streets of London, Ont. The London Transit Commission offered free bus rides to passengers this weekend, as well as refunds on bus passes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Afghans taking charge

Operation Eagle testing Canadian-mentored troops

The harsh sound of the national anthem blasting over the Afghan countryside on the weekend left little doubt that a new battle for one of the most dangerous districts of southern Afghanistan had been joined in earnest.

As Canadian soldiers turned up the volume on the portable speaker and two American Kiowa helicopters twisted and turned overhead, Canadian-mentored Afghan soldiers swept through the village of Chahar Bagh.

Scores of freshly arrived U.S. troops — ultimately under Canadian command — provided firepower support.

Without subtlety, Operation Eagle had landed in the Arghandab district village, marking several firsts.

The daylong sweep of Chahar Bagh was the first time the Canadian-mentored battalion of Afghan soldiers — known as 3rd Kandak — had planned and executed a major operation.

COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An elderly man and young girl clutching a school book pass Afghan soldiers Saturday during Operation Eagle in the village of Chahar Bagh near Kandahar. It was the first time the Canadian-mentored soldiers had been partnered with American troops.

It was also the first time the 2-508 unit of the U.S. 82nd Airborne had deployed in Canada's new area of operations.

Arghandab is prized by the Taliban insurgency as a key entrance to Kandahar city just to the south.

Maj. Andrew Vivian, who heads the unit of Canadian mentors for 3rd Kandak, admitted feeling like a teacher whose students are about to take an important exam.

"Ultimately, we succeed when the ANA are out flourishing on their own (and) conducting independent operations," Vivian said. "If they succeed, it means we have done our jobs." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nurse numbers rise

INCREASE A new study by the Canadian Institute for Health Information, released Friday, said the number of employed nurses in Canada has risen to 341,431.

"We're certainly encouraged by the number," said Rachel Bard, CEO of the Canadian Nurses Association.

A positive development is an increase in the number of community health nurses and more nurses working in telehealth, Bard said.

The Canadian population is aging, and there is a need to ensure there will be enough nurses to support elderly people in the years to come, she noted. Supply and demand varies across the country. Earlier this month, the New Brunswick government announced it would spend $800,000 on incentives for difficult-to-fill nursing positions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

More nurses

8.3% Increase in the number of nurses working in Canada since 2004.

14.2 Percentage of nurses employed in the community health sector.

Former KGB agent says he's no threat to Canada

AGENT A former KGB agent who has been hiding in a Vancouver church for the past six months to avoid deportation says the federal government should reconsider his case in light of thousands of pages of newly released documents.

Mikhail Lennikov, who has lived in Canada with his wife and child for more than a decade, worked for the KGB as a translator in the 1980s. Lennikov said he's been unfairly judged simply for being a member of the KGB — which he said he joined under pressure. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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U.S. condemns Cambodian move

The U.S. is condemning Cambodia's decision to forcibly deport 20 Muslim asylum-seekers back to China. The U.S. State Department says American ties with Cambodia will suffer as a result. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Not blackballing: McCain

John McCain says he understands why Sarah Palin blacked out his name on a McCain campaign visor so she could avoid recognition while on vacation in Hawaii. The Senator made the comments about his 2008 running mate on Fox News Sunday. Palin blacked out McCain's name on the visor with a felt marker recently, saying she is fond of McCain but wanted to travel "incognito." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leaders defend pact

China says Copenhagen talks 'significant and positive'

Go Green

China, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, lauded yesterday the outcome of a historic UN climate conference that ended with a nonbinding agreement that urges major polluters to make deeper emissions cuts — but does not require it.

Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said the international climate talks that brought more than 110 leaders together in Copenhagen produced "significant and positive" results. The Obama administration yesterday also defended the agreement as a "great step forward" — despite widespread disappointment among environmentalists that the pact does not include mandatory targets that would draw sanctions.

"Nobody says that this is the end of the road. The end of the road would have been the complete collapse of those talks. This is a great step forward," White House adviser David Axelrod told CNN's State of the Union show.

Disputes between rich and poor countries and between the world's biggest carbon polluters — China and the U.S. — dominated the two-week conference. Tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets to demand action to cool an overheating planet.

Under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol — that was rejected by the U.S. — 37 industrial nations were already modestly cutting back on their emissions of greenhouse gases.

Under the new, nonbinding agreement, those richer nations, including the U.S., are to list their individual emissions targets, and developing countries must list what actions they will take to reduce the growth in their global warming pollution by specific amounts.

China has pledged to reduce its carbon intensity — its use of fossil fuels per unit of economic output — by 40 to 45 per cent. The U.S. has committed to cutting emissions provisionally to a weak 3 to 4 per cent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Copenhagen summary

- The meeting ended Saturday after a 31-hour negotiating marathon, with delegates accepting a U.S.-brokered compromise. The so-called Copenhagen Accord calls for reducing emissions to keep temperatures from rising more than two degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels. It gives billions of dollars in climate aid to poor nations but does not require the world's major polluters to make deeper cuts in their greenhouse gas emissions.

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SCANLIFE

As international pressure mounts on the U.S. to curb its emissions, natural gas is emerging as an unlikely solution. Scan this barcode for the article or go to metronews.ca/world

ROBERT MECEA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Morgan Rosbrook, 12, of Raleigh, N.C., blows snow from her hands yesterday in Times Square in New York.

News in brief

EUROPE Snowstorms and subfreezing temperatures have battered Europe, killing 15 people in Poland alone overnight and wreaking havoc on air, train and car travellers from the Nordics to Italy on the last weekend before Christmas. France's aviation authority ordered the cancellation of 40 per cent of flights out of Paris' Charles de Gaulle and Orly airports yesterday through the mid-afternoon.

NIGERIA At least 55 people died and 38 others were injured when a truck carrying bags of fertilizer slammed into a market in central Nigeria. Samuel Obayemi of the Nigerian Federal Road Commission says the driver lost control of his rig and crashed into three other vehicles and a crowd of people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taiwan Talks with China spark protest

CHIANG YING-YING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demonstrators protest against the upcoming Taiwan-China cross-strait meetings yesterday in the central Taiwan city of Taichung. China's top Taiwan negotiator, Chen Yunlin, is scheduled to arrive in Taichung today, set to sign four new commercial accords with Taiwanese officials.

Winter storm socks northeastern U.S.

U.S. A slow-moving storm that blanketed swaths of the mid-Atlantic states with nearly 60 centimetres of snow reached southern New England yesterday in a weekend assault along the U.S. east coast that caused at least five deaths, crippled travel and left empty stores normally crammed with holiday shoppers.

Blizzard warnings were in effect for parts of Rhode Island and Massachusetts with gusts up to 100 kilometres per hour.

As much as 40 centimetres of snow was expected to cover parts of the area.

On the cusp of the winter solstice, the storm dropped 40 centimetres of snow on Reagan National Airport in Washington D.C. on Saturday — the most ever recorded there for a single December day. Some of the deepest was recorded in the Philadelphia suburb of Medford, N.J., at 60 centimetres.

"For those who are looking for a white Christmas, this certainly will stick around for Christmastime," National Weather Service meteorologist Bruce Sullivan said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"For those who are looking for a white Christmas, this certainly will stick around."
Bruce Sullivan, U.S. National Weather Service

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Dissident Iranian cleric dies at 87

Iran's most senior dissident cleric, Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, who emerged as the spiritual father of its reform movement, died yesterday. He was 87. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. admiral downplays Iran issue

MILITARY The top U.S. military officer said yesterday he does not assume Iran's brief seizure of an Iraqi oil well is part of an orchestrated plan in Tehran. Admiral Mike Mullen also said he's worried about "the clock now running" on the Obama administration's efforts at trying to keep the lines of communication open with Iran.

Mullen

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said "signals are very clearly in the air" about more international penalties against Iran over its nuclear program. The U.S. and others worry that Iran's program is intended to make a nuclear weapon. Iran says its work is peaceful and designed to generate electricity.

Mullen supports the offer of outreach from President Barack Obama, and has said any military strike on Iran, whether by Israel or the United States, should be a last resort.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel trouble in Europe

Eurostar lines suspended after five trains break down in Channel tunnel

The only rail link between Britain and France was closed indefinitely yesterday as Eurostar investigated a series of train breakdowns that trapped thousands of people in the Channel Tunnel for hours.

The stoppage meant that about 31,000 people in Britain, France and Belgium had to cancel trips planned on Eurostar on Saturday, and 26,000 more were expected to be affected yesterday.

Eurostar originally said that four of its trains were halted in the tunnel Friday evening. Yesterday the company said a fifth train had also been disabled in the tunnel before being towed to London. A sixth train broke down Friday, although outside the tunnel, 38 kilometres of which sits under the English Channel, Eurostar said.

The problem is the latest of several that British travellers have faced as the Christmas and New Year's holidays approach.

Several airports have been affected by unusually heavy snow falls.

ADRIAN SUENAGA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travellers kill time at St. Pancras Station in London yesterday after train services were suspended.

Yesterday, the runway at Manchester Airport — Britain's busiest outside the London area — was closed for emergency snow clearance. On Friday, Gatwick Airport in London closed its runways for several hours for the same reason. Other regional airports such as Bristol in southwestern England and Belfast in Northern Ireland also were hit by delays and cancellations. Many other travellers with bookings on British Airways had a close call. Last week, a court blocked a planned strike over the holidays by BA cabin crews, which would have disrupted the travel plans of around one million people. Trapped Eurostar passengers spoke of languishing in the dark for up to 16 hours without adequate food, water or any clear idea of what was happening. Some reportedly suffered asthma and panic attacks.

While most of the trains were towed out, two had to be evacuated, forcing passengers to walk through the tunnel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

BRAZIL A two-year-old Brazilian boy was recovering nicely yesterday and receiving support from across the country after surgery to remove sewing needles his stepfather confessed to pushing into him, a hospital official said. The child faces additional surgery, probably in the next couple of days, to remove more of the dozens of needles that remain in his body, said Suzy Moreno, a spokeswoman for Hospital Ana Nery in the northeastern city of Salvador. Police said the boy's stepfather has confessed to pushing the needles into the boy at the behest of his lover in an odd ritual aimed at keeping the couple together.

ITALY Premier Silvio Berlusconi said yesterday that public support is helping him recover from an attack that left him with a broken nose and two broken teeth, news reports said. The premier phoned into a pro-Berlusconi rally in Verona and told supporters that their presence had given him strength, the ANSA and Apcom news agencies reported. Speaking through an official at the rally, Berlusconi, 73, repeated a mantra now posted on his party's Web site: "Love always wins out over envy and hatred," the agencies reported. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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camh
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Centre de toxicomanie et de santé mentale

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR A STUDY OF TREATMENT OF SEASONAL DEPRESSION

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, in affiliation with the University of Toronto, is looking for volunteers for a study of light therapy and negative ions in the treatment of seasonal depression (also called seasonal affective disorder).

The study involves completing questionnaires and having 4 weeks of treatment with either a light therapy or negative ion generator device.

Eligibility:

- Male or female from 18 to 65
- Suffering from seasonal depression (seasonal affective disorder)
- No significant eye disease
- Are not currently abusing substances
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The Hidden Cost of Tickets and Accidents

Your Driving Record Impacts Your Your Car Insurance Rate

Just How Costly Are Tickets And Accidents?

Between paying fines, insurance deductibles, and other out-of-pocket expenses, most people understand tickets and accidents can be costly. What many people DON'T know is that there is usually another "hidden" cost which is just around the corner. It comes in the form of higher insurance rates. This is because insurance companies look at your driving record and insurance history, including any tickets or accidents you've had, as a key factor in setting their rates. And this is why drivers with cleaner driving records, on average, find they are able to obtain lower insurance rates.

Does This Mean I'm Doomed To Pay A Bundle?

NO! For the driver with tickets and accidents, there is good news and hope of lowering your rate. In fact, there are some drivers with tickets or accidents that are actually paying LESS than similar drivers with clean driving records. Certain insurance companies actually target this type of risk and have competitive rates. The trick is finding those companies – which is easier than you think... if you know where to look.

What's The REAL Secret To Lowering Your Rate?

The simplest and easiest thing you can do to lower your rate right now is to SHOP AROUND. Why? Because the rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. Take a look at the table below.

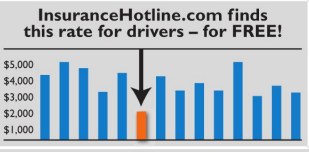
The key is finding the one insurance company that can offer the lowest rate available for your driving profile. InsuranceHotline.com offers an independent, unbiased rate comparison from over 30 of the top insurance companies in Canada to find you the lowest rate for your profile and then connects you with a licensed broker or agent who can provide the policy. It is fast, safe and FREE.

Start Saving Your Money Now.

InsuranceHotline.com puts you in the driver seat by making insurance companies compete for your business. Think of it as a one-stop shop for lowering your car insurance rate. There is never any obligation. You decide if you're interested in the rate provided and whether you want to move your business. So don't waste another minute. Go online to InsuranceHotline.com and start saving your money now.

Rate Comparison

Driving Record	Lowest Price	Highest Price	Price Difference
Clean Record	$958	$2,213	$1,255
1 Ticket	$1,018	$2,552	$1,534
1 Accident	$1,849	$3,753	$1,904



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- SAVE TIME AND MONEY by quickly comparing your rate to the lowest rate available
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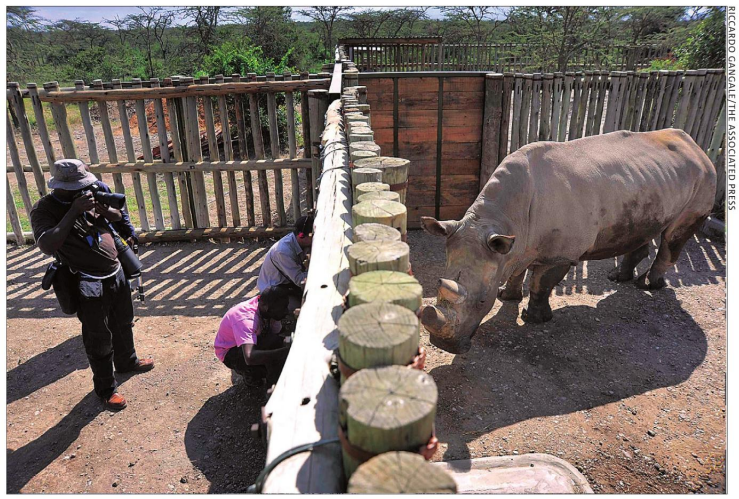
Israel admits to organ harvesting

Israel has admitted its forensic pathologists harvested organs from dead bodies, including Palestinians, in the 1990s without permission of their families. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



RICCARDO GANGALE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tourists peer through the fence of a pen to see a northern white rhino shortly after it arrived at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya yesterday. Four of the world's last known eight northern white rhinos were transported to the game park in their savannah homeland from a Czech zoo.

Saving rare rhinos

Four of the world's last known eight northern white rhinos landed in Kenya yesterday and were transported to a game park where officials hope the endangered mammals will reproduce and save their subspecies.

No white rhinos are known to remain in the wild, and the animals transported yesterday have produced no offspring after nearly 24 years in a Czech zoo. So wildlife workers hoping to save the subspecies loaded two males and two females into wooden crates and began the effort to return them to what was once their savannah homeland.

When teams of Kenyan wildlife workers opened the crates yesterday, two of the rhinos lingered several minutes before moving to a larger pen as Czech animal handlers coaxed them out with soothing words and treats. The other two exited immediately. The rhinos' handlers and park officials said they hoped the two females will bear as many young as possible for several years, but all those involved acknowledged it was not a sure bet that the rhinos would reproduce.

The northern white rhino is the world's rarest large mammal, making the international effort to save the subspecies all the more important.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

MIDEAST Israeli authorities could soon use special commando units, unmanned spy planes and cellphone-jamming equipment to enforce a moratorium on new settlement construction in the West Bank, military officials said yesterday, deepening a showdown between the government and Jewish settlers. Enraged settler leaders vowed to resist the plan, prompting Defence Minister Ehud Barak to warn that settlers would face the full wrath of the military if they continue to flout the 10-month construction slowdown. The slowdown was an attempt to restart peace talks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Deadly earthquake hits Malawi, three killed
A strong earthquake destroyed several buildings in Malawi yesterday, killing at least three people and injuring about 200, a government official said. The victims included students who were sleeping in a dormitory at a government school. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BART MUHL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Teen sailor Laura Dekker, seen in this August file photo, was reported missing Friday.

Teen sailor found in Caribbean

Police tracked down 14-year-old Dutch sailor Laura Dekker in the Caribbean territory of St. Maarten, days after she ran away from home leaving her boat behind, Dutch media reported late yesterday.

Dekker made headlines around the world earlier this year when she unsuccessfully went to court as a 13-year-old to fight for the right to set off on a single-handed circumnavigation of the world in her boat.

St. Maarten police tracked down Dekker yesterday after news of her disappearance broke and she was expected to be flown home soon. St. Maarten is part of the Netherlands Antilles, a group of self-governing Caribbean islands that are part of the Dutch kingdom.

Earlier, Utrecht police spokesman Bernhard Jens said Dutch authorities issued an international alert after Dekker was reported missing Friday. Jens said Dekker's boat Guppy was still moored at its berth.

In October, Utrecht District Court refused to let Dekker embark on her attempt to become the youngest person to sail alone around the world, and placed her under the supervision of child care authorities until next July, meaning she could not leave the country without their permission.

Dekker has joint Dutch and New Zealand citizenship because she was born on a yacht in New Zealand waters. She said earlier this year she might try to go there if Dutch authorities refused to let her sail. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Veteran sailors

- Laura's parents, both veteran sailors, are separated. Laura's father supported the attempt to sail alone round the world, but her mother said in September she thought Laura was too young.

Democrats secure crucial 60th vote

HEALTH CARE U.S. Senate Democrats pushed yesterday toward a critical vote to advance historic health-care reform legislation as outnumbered Republicans pledged a fight to the end against U.S. President Barack Obama's top domestic policy priority.

Senators resumed a heated debate yesterday afternoon a day after jubilant Democrats announced they had locked in the 60th and decisive vote needed to overcome Republican efforts to delay passage. That vote came from moderate Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska, the last holdout in their caucus, who declared his support after negotiations with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

That put the bill firmly on a path for Christmas Eve passage. To keep the process moving under Senate rules, Democrats will need to show 60 votes in a series of votes. The first, and most critical, test vote on a cloture motion to end debate on the bill was set for about 1 a.m. today.

To get Nelson's deciding vote, Reid agreed to a series of concessions on abortion and other issues. The bill also lacks a government-run insurance option. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Insurance

- At its core, the legislation would create a new insurance exchange where consumers could shop for affordable coverage that complies with new federal guidelines. Most Americans would be required to purchase insurance, with subsidies available to help defray the cost for lower and middle income individuals and families. New protections would be offered to ensure people don't lose coverage because of health problems.

Here comes Santa **Who needs Rudolph?**

HONEY CIRONNEAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two men dressed as Santa Claus ride a Jet Ski yesterday on the Mediterranean sea at Villeneuve Loubet, near Nice, southeastern France.

Iraqi PM in Egypt in bid to improve ties

VISIT Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki opened a landmark visit to Egypt yesterday in what aides described as an ambitious attempt to improve relations with one of the Arab world's most powerful players. Iraq's Shiite-led government and its close ties to Iran are often viewed with suspicion by its mostly Sunni neighbours.

Iraq-Egypt relations, already strained during the reign of Saddam Hussein, deteriorated further after Egypt's ambassador to Baghdad was kidnapped and killed by al-Qaida in 2005. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philippines volcano set to blow top

CHANGES The Philippines' most active volcano could have a huge eruption within days, officials warned yesterday after detecting a drastic surge in earthquakes and eerie rumbling sounds in surrounding foothills. Tens of thousands of villagers have been evacuated as a precaution.

Scientists raised the five-step alert level for the Mayon volcano to level four after 453 volcanic earthquakes were detected in a five-hour span yesterday, compared to just more than 200 Saturday, said Renato Solidum, chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. Level five is when a major eruption has begun.

More than 40,000 villagers have been moved to emergency shelters, but some have still been spotted checking on their farms in the prohibited zone. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Offer subject to change without notice. *LG Eve available with new activation on any 3-yr. term voice and data plan. Other devices featured available with new activation on any 3-yr. term voice and data plan having min. combined monthly service fee of $45.
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Comment

Some holiday travel tips

InTransit

Ed Drass

metronews.ca/intransit

The economy may be weak but that won't stop GTA residents from flocking to streets and malls in the hunt for bargains and last-minute gifts. Consider this your reminder to expect crowded buses, streetcars and trains.

Now is also an opportune time to enjoy Toronto's huge array of attractions — particularly museums, galleries and live shows. Metropass holders should visit ttc.ca and search under "Hot Dealz" because the TTC has added a bunch of discount offers to a list that already includes the zoo and the CN Tower.

A few new deals are the King Tut exhibit, Raptors basketball and some popular theatre productions.

Those who don't have a Metropass can still save money by taking advantage of extended dates for the TTC day pass. For $9, up to six people (including two adults) can have unlimited one-day travel until Jan. 1. See the ttc.ca home page for the specifics, as well as holiday service hours.

It's probably a good idea to buy your day passes in advance and keep them handy. The TTC tells me unused passes sold before the Jan. 3 fare hike will have to be exchanged — at no added cost — for new day passes. Stay tuned for details.

Just weeks after the TTC opened its new express bus lanes to York University, another transit-only route has begun service. Exclusive streetcar lanes are now open on St. Clair between Yonge Street and Lansdowne Avenue.

Quick tip

- The 505 Dundas streetcar has resumed full service between Lansdowne and Ossington avenues. Also, mega-kudos to the Toronto Entertainment Alliance for making New Year's Eve safer with free TTC rides. See ttc.ca.

Merchants along this wide boulevard have suffered during a prolonged construction period — not only have the tracks and roadway been replaced, but there has been a lot of utility work.

This is our cue to go explore the great variety of shops, restaurants and cafés that line St. Clair. It would be an excellent gesture for Torontonians to recognize the sacrifice of local business owners by visiting the street and spending some holiday cash there.

Keep in mind special transfers are issued along the 512 St. Clair route that allow unlimited use for two hours. Look up "Time-Based Transfers" at ttc.ca for an explanation. This deal should remain in effect at least until the entire 512 line reopens to streetcars past Keele Street some time in 2010.

My last shopping tip? I've added new items to the list of transit-related merchandise at eddrass.com — see the Trinkets page for links and descriptions. Geek alert: Spacing has more subway buttons — in 1954 colours.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday; transit@eddrass.com.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Christmas – a lot of assembly required

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

Today, our final instalment on Prepping for the Holidays:

Sanity: Is it overrated?

Or, all I want for Christmas is a G-17A size 12 Allen key.

After the excitement of Christmas morning comes another traditional holiday event: Assembly Afternoon.

In olden days, Assembly Afternoon did not exist. A ball was a ball. A jump rope was a jump rope. And a quoit and skittle set was ... actually, I have no idea what that was. But the point is, it didn't need to be put together. You got your quoit and your skittle and you were good to go.

Now that we live in more convenient times, it's likely that at least one gift you receive will have to be assembled, mounted or, it may seem, built entirely from scratch. This is because manufacturers ship their products in parts for obvious reasons: They can't figure out how the heck to put the thing together either.

To be ready for Assembly Afternoon, here's what you'll need:

1. A translator.

These days most items come with instructions that have been thoughtfully translated into a wide variety of languages. These may include Klingon, Hobbit and British semaphore, but they will never, ever include whatever language you speak.

2. The home phone number of a hardware store owner.

Before Christmas, take time to do a full inventory of what tools and equipment you have. Now know that whatever you already own is not what you are going to need to do the task at hand.

Another important note here: Any box that says "batteries included," doesn't.

3. A whacking thing.

At some point it will become clear that Piece C is not going to go into Slot A without some serious persuasion. Excellent whacking things I have used include Nutcracker dolls and that extra piece that didn't seem to fit anywhere. Tip: Do not use your spouse's new BlackBerry. Trust me on this one.

4. Assistance.

While most assembly efforts are one-person jobs, it's traditional to have someone on hand to provide helpful comments such as, "That's not how I'd do it," and "Too bad you have to do that or you could be having a drink like me." While it's not OK to use the whacking thing on this person, it is perfectly acceptable to give them a gift next year that comes in a ka-gillion pieces.

Wishing you all a happy holiday and joyous Assembly Afternoon!

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

Worth mentioning

Feds scrambling to put together Olympic pavilion

The Conservative government is in an 11th-hour scramble to put together a national pavilion at the Vancouver Olympics, even though it was advised for years by bureaucrats and partners that it should take advantage of the Winter Games to promote Canada to the world.

Showcase

- Meanwhile, the provinces have had their "houses" in order for months, with Ontario alone spending $4.5 million on its pavilion. The buildings and tents are designed to showcase everything from tourism to investment opportunities.

Insiders say it's all part of a penny-pinching approach the Tories have taken to leveraging the Olympics for economic gain.

The $10 million in funding for the pavilion was only officially approved in August, and an American firm was chosen in mid-November to build it for the Games in February.

Sources close to the Olympics said that was in spite of recommendations from federal bureaucrats dating back five years that the host country produce a major showcase.

British Columbia was so concerned the federal government wasn't paying attention that it offered the Tories space in its own pavilion in July.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

We Know What You're Thinking

43% How many Canadians who purchase gift cards sometimes forget to purchase a greeting card to go with it?

IPSOS REID

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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Fewer freighters on Great Lakes routes
Great Lakes shipping is winding down a turbulent season in which freighters made fewer trips to transport fewer commodities. Glen Nekvasil, vice-president of the Cleveland-based Lake Carriers' Association, says shipments of core products such as iron ore, limestone, grain and coal all declined. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

DOLLAR	N.GAS	OIL	TSX
US 93.81¢	US $5.78	US $74.42	11,463.40
(Friday's close)	(Friday's close)	(Friday's close)	(Friday's close)

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Markets expected to stay volatile

Short trading week ahead

Stock markets are expected to remain volatile in the shortened trading week ahead of Christmas as investors clean up their books before the start of the new year.

Motivation will come from the turbulent commodity prices, which proved especially unpredictable last week as the U.S. dollar bounced around in value.

Traders will also be making last-minute trades to meet the tax-loss trading deadline for the year.

"There's a whole bunch of conflicted forces at work," said John Johnston, chief strategist at the Harbour Group at RBC Dominion Securities.

"The U.S. economy is showing pretty decisive indications that it's in an economic recovery, but a very slow one. The general trend in the economy is supportive for equity markets, but at the same time expectations have risen."

Observers have predicted trading this month would be relatively muted compared with previous years partly because the TSX rallied in early November to a high for the year and since then many traders have taken time off for the holiday season.

Toronto's S&P/TSX composite index budged just 39 points last week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Holiday closures

- Stock markets will operate on a regular trading schedule until Christmas Eve Thursday, when they close at 1 p.m. on both sides of the border, and remain closed for Christmas.

m.metronews.ca

SCANLIFE

Iraq's oil industry takes a big step by moving toward developing a lucrative oilfield. Scan this barcode for the article or go to metronews.ca/world

Engine GM phases out V8

DON HEUPEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GM employees pose for a group portrait Friday after a news conference on the last big block V8 engine at the General Motors Powertrain plant in Tonawanda, N.Y. General Motors on Friday marked the end of the line for a class of V8 engine that's been in production for 51 years.

Hyundai joint venture set to build heavy trucks in China

AUTOS Hyundai Motor Co. said yesterday it has agreed to launch a $400-million US truck manufacturing venture in China with a local partner as it seeks further inroads in the world's biggest auto market.

South Korea's largest automaker said it signed an initial agreement with Chinese commercial vehicle manufacturer Baotou Bei Ben Heavy-Duty Truck Co. and has set a sales target of 100,000 heavy-duty trucks in China by 2014.

Hyundai, which makes passenger cars in China, said it will initially focus on heavy-duty trucks and gradually boost its investment to include a "full lineup of commercial vehicles."

"The joint venture will initially launch a refreshed Baotou Bei Ben model and then launch a brand new model by 2012 with input from Hyundai," Hyundai said in a release.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dutch make last bid to save Saab

AUTOS In a final attempt to rescue Saab Automobile, Dutch automaker Spyker Cars yesterday submitted a new offer to buy the Swedish brand from General Motors, addressing the issues that made talks collapse earlier last week. The new offer expires today.

GM on Friday said it would wind down Saab because issues arose during the sales talks with Spyker that could not be resolved, and the window of time to complete a deal was small.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

BANKS Regulators have shut down two big California banks, bringing to 140 the number of U.S. banks brought down this year by the weak economy and mounting loan defaults. On Friday, regulators also shut down banks in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Michigan and Illinois. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. has taken over the seven, including Imperial Capital Bank, which has about $4 billion US in assets and $2.8 billion in deposits, and First Federal Bank of California with $6.1 billion of assets and $4.5 billion of deposits.

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American pika losing its home

Faced with global warming, many creatures will migrate to cooler latitudes — but the American pika can't do that because its habitat in North America is currently restricted to small, disconnected habitat 'islands' in numerous mountain ranges. **WWF**

Going Green

Give the Earth a gift

With only a few shopping days left, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation has launched a new e-gift available at tdfef.com/egift. One hundred per cent of every donation will support grassroots environment and wildlife projects across Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Kevin Wall is leading the fight for fresh water.

Water supply in danger?

ERICK TAPIA
Metro World News

On Apr. 18 next year, thousands of people across the world will run 6 km — the average distance women and children walks to find water in drought-hit parts of Africa.

The Dow Live Earth Run for Water is the brainchild of Live Earth's CEO Kevin Wall and is aimed at raising awareness of what he believes is be the key global crisis, lack of drinking water.

He spoke to Metro:

Q Is the planet's fresh water in danger?

A Well the planet is full of water but the reserve of drinkable water is actually getting smaller and more polluted.

If you go to the drought areas of Africa the rivers are dry.

Women and children will walk 6 km to get basic drinking water.

Q Do you think that humanity will solve the water problem?

A I hope that corporations, governments and individuals will find a solution. It will take major corporations to change the way they do business and their water usage, it will take Governments to continue to push forward to find a better policy as global citizens.

Q What sort of actions are being taken around the world?

A There are different actions in different parts of the world. In the United States and Europe you turn on the tap and the water comes out so here we need to look at major conservation efforts and conserve this precious resource. But it is different in other parts of the world — in some parts it may be activism, in others it may be actually drilling water wells.

China using pig power

Village becomes model for renewable energy with bio-fuel

ANN-AËL DURAND
Metro World News

The inhabitants of Cao Tian Da, in the Chinese province of Yunnan, cook and heat their homes with pig excrement — an example of transition towards new energies encouraged by China.

The signs painted along the road state it clearly: Cao Tian Da is a "model village for renewable energy." This 140-inhabitant hamlet, in the mountains of Yunnan, seems traditional, with red-clay houses, corn ears hung for drying, and chickens running in the courtyard. But in the streets, public lamps are equipped with solar panels.

On the roof, brand-new solar heaters are glittering, and on the whitewashed walls, crude paintings explain how to use the new energy: bio-gas, made from pig feces.

"It is very convenient," explains Wan Qin, in her new kitchen.

The young peasant opens a tap and activates a gas stove — much better than her old fireplace.

"Before, I had to collect firewood in the mountain, with my baby on my back. Now, I am relieved. We also have hot water with the heater."

Her electricity bill has been reduced by half, and the forest is preserved. An important issue for these families: their village has been moved by the authorities for environmental reasons linked with deforestation.

The gas in Wan Qin kitchen is freely provided by an industrial pigsty, 1 km away. The company, Hui Jian, strongly subsidized by the local authorities, keeps the excrement of its 2,000 pigs in big manure pits — 250 cubic metres per day, which ferment and produce methane.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Pig feces is used to create bio-gas which powers these homes.

45 In China, 45 per cent of the population still lives in the countryside. China has become a bigger greenhouse gas issuer in the last two years. It is one of the most polluted countries, suffering from acid rains, desertification and water contamination.

The industrial pigsty keeps the excrement of 2,000 pigs, which is used to create a bio gas that powers the nearby village.

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Newmarket
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Richmond Hill
Hillcrest Shopping Centre
4 - 11005 Yonge St.
9301 Bathurst St.

Thornhill
Promenade Mall
7171 Yonge St. (Galleria)
7378 Yonge St.

Vaughan
Vaughan Mills Outlet Mall
3 - 10019 Keele St.
2 - 160 Cidermill Ave.
3 - 4000 Hwy. 7

Woodbridge
A7 - 4220 Steeles Ave. W

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Sports

Williams sets record

Miami running back Ricky Williams, left, reached 1,000 yards rushing for this season on his fifth carry yesterday against Tennessee, setting an NFL record for the longest span between 1,000-yard seasons at six years. This marks the fifth 1,000-yard rushing season of his career. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Raptors keep Paul in check

Hornets' star point guard held to 10 points as Toronto beats New Orleans

NBA

Hornets 92 **Raptors** 98

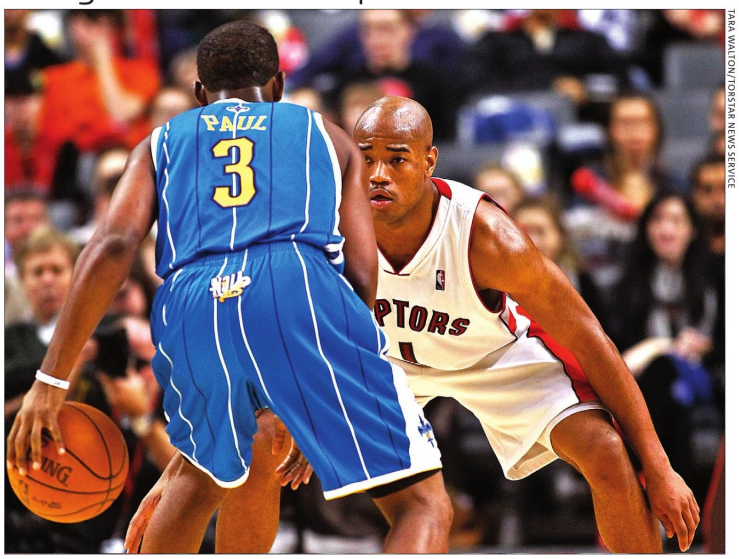
AT

The NBA's best point guard was no match for the Toronto Raptors' third-stringer.

Chris Bosh led a balanced attack with 25 points and 11 rebounds, and the Raptors neutralized Chris Paul on the way to a 98-92 victory over the New Orleans Hornets yesterday afternoon.

All five starters scored in double figures for the Raptors (13-17), who have won two straight following a two-game losing streak. Jarrett Jack had 15 points and seven assists, while Hedo Turkoglu added 14, Andrea Bargnani 13 and DeMar DeRozan 10. Amir Johnson pulled down a season-best 12 rebounds off the bench.

Paul, who came into the game averaging 21.4 points per game, was held to just 10 points on 3-of-13 shooting. Though he contributed in other areas — adding eight rebounds and seven assists — Paul spent most of the afternoon blanketed by Jack and seldom-used Marcus Banks, who was given high praise for his airtight defence on the two-time all-star.



TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Raptor Jarrett Jack guards New Orleans Hornet Chris Paul yesterday.

"The one thing that Marcus can do is defend," said Raptors head coach Jay Triano. "Marcus can guard point guards. Chris Paul tried to post him up a couple of times, and Marcus is very strong, and did a good job holding his ground.

"He's been taking advantages of the chances he's had to play right now."

With Jose Calderon nursing a sore hip that has forced him to miss seven of the last eight games, Banks has been relied upon as a defensive stopper behind Jack. Yesterday may have been his strongest effort yet — a frustrated Paul pleaded with refs repeatedly, even shouting "He's fouling me!" late in the fourth quarter after Banks made contact with him.

"It's really tough guarding a guy like Chris Paul," said Banks. "He can do anything he wants, he can go anywhere on the court he wants.

"Defence comes from the heart. You have to want to play defence. That's my job. Coach told me to come in and frustrate (Paul)."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

When Miller is in net for Sabres, Leafs face an uphill battle

NHL PREVIEW

Sabres vs **Leafs**

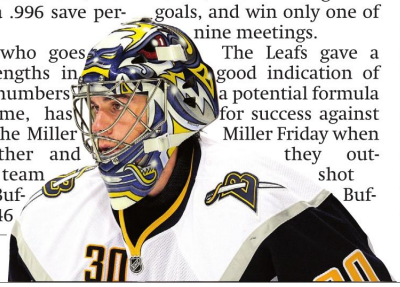
AT

Ryan Miller is expected to start in net against the Leafs tonight, and when he steps onto the ice, he won't need any introduction.

The Sabres goalie is the NHL's resident Leaf killer over the past two seasons. So much so that even Leafs coach Ron Wilson acknowledged this past week that Miller is probably the one player above all others who has had the biggest impact against the Leafs during Wilson's tenure here.

Wilson added how Miller has compiled some impressive numbers in his Leaf-beating performances, and those numbers are exceptional: An 8-1 record, 1.67 GAA, and a .996 save percentage.

Wilson, who goes to great lengths in studying numbers in the game, has looked at the Miller factor further and seen his team outshoot Buffalo 289-246 in his tenure as Leafs coach, but manage 12 goals, and win only one of nine meetings.



Ryan Miller

The Leafs gave a good indication of a potential formula for success against Miller Friday when they outshot Buffalo 42-27, but still lost 5-2. For a period, the Leafs were the better team and took a 1-0 lead by putting shots and pressure at the Sabres net.

The theory there — according to Leaf players — is an effect where Miller, or any great goalie, is taken out of his comfort zone by being forced to deal with traffic and second and third chances.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports in brief

CRISP The Oakland Athletics are close to agreeing with free-agent outfielder Coco Crisp on a one-year contract with a club option for the 2011 season. A person with knowledge of the negotiations confirmed an impending deal on condition of anonymity because a formal announcement had not been made by the club.

ITALY Samuel Eto'o scored an early goal to give Inter Milan a 1-0 win at home to Lazio yesterday and extend its Serie A lead to eight points going into the winter break. Also yesterday it was; AS Roma 2, Parma 0; Livorno 3, Sampdoria 1; Napoli 2, Chievo Verona 0; and Palermo 1, Siena 0.

PORTUGAL Javier Saviola scored as Benfica beat Porto 1-0 in the Portuguese "classico" yesterday, taking the Lisbon team to a share of the lead in the league standings. Also yesterday, Leiria beat Belenenses 1-0, Setubal beat Maritimo 3-2 and Nacional beat Academica 4-3.

FRANCE Eighteen-year-old sensation Eden Hazard scored a goal and set up two in Lille's 3-0 victory over Le Mans yesterday in the French league.

FORMULA ONE Italian organizers say a deal has been signed with Formula One chief Bernie Ecclestone to stage a Rome Grand Prix on the streets of Italy's capital. Course planner Maurizio Flammini told Sky Italia yesterday that an agreement with Ecclestone "has already been done and signed" but did not say when the first Rome GP might be held.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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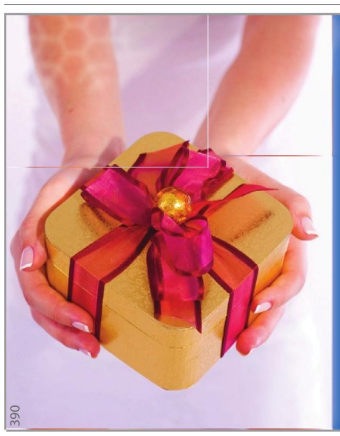

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$3,000	$93

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CITY: 7.8L/100 km (36 mpg)Δ

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Bi-weekly payments based on a purchase price of $15,648/$13,778/$17,648. ††Financing Bi-weekly/84 months. 0% purchase financing for 36 months available on 2009 Pontiac G3 Wave SE 1SN and 2010 Pontiac G5 SE Coupe or Sedan (R7C/Vibe FWD R7A) and 2009 Pontiac G3 Wave SE 1SN with $0 down payment. Example: $10,000 at 0% for 36 months, the monthly payment is $277.78. Cost of borrowing is $0. Total obligation is $10,000. ♦♦♦$1,000 holiday bonus cash is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Offer available on all 2009/2010 Chevrolet Pontiac Buick GMC and Hummer models excluding all Saturn and Saab models, Camaro, Express/Savana, Corvette ZR1 and Medium Duty Trucks. ◊Offer applies to the cash purchase of 2009 and 2010 Pontiac G5 SE Coupe or Sedan (R7C/Vibe FWD R7A) and 2009 Pontiac G3 Wave SE 1SN. Freight ($1,350/$1,325/$1,325), license, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees and taxes are not included. 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Medals for Canadian snowboarders

Canadian snowboarders will be heading home with a pair of medals from a snowboardcross team event. Maelle Ricker of Squamish, B.C., and Dominique Maltais of Petite-Rivieres Saint-Francois, Que., took silver in the ladies event yesterday while Mike Robertson of Canmore, Alta., and Drew Neilson of North Vancouver were third in the men's. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grieving Bengals fall short

NFL

Bengals 24 Chargers 27

AT

Nate Kaeding kicked a 52-yard field goal with three seconds left and the playoff-bound San Diego Chargers pulled out a dramatic 27-24 win over the grieving Cincinnati Bengals yesterday.

The winning kick came after Philip Rivers moved the Chargers 46 yards in 51 seconds with no timeouts and backup centre Dennis Norman snapping after Scott Mruckzkowski was injured.

A few minutes after the final gun, the Chargers clinched their fourth straight AFC West title when Denver lost 20-19 to Oakland.

San Diego (11-3) won its ninth straight game and clinched a playoff spot before halftime because of other results. The Bolts improved to 17-0 in December dating to 2006.

The Bengals (9-5) failed for the second straight week to clinch the AFC North.

Cincinnati, playing three days after the death of receiver Chris Henry, had tied the game at 24 on Shayne Graham's 34-yard field goal with 54 seconds left.

The Bengals wore decals with Henry's No. 15 on their helmets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LENNY IGNELZI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cincinnati Bengals linebacker Dhani Jones, left, and safety Chinedum Ndukwe sack San Diego Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers yesterday in San Diego.

NFL backs brain research

- The NFL is partnering with Boston University brain researchers who have been critical of the league's stance on concussions, The Associated Press learned yesterday. The league now plans to encourage players to donate their brains to the Boston University Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy, which has said it found links between repeated head trauma and brain damage in athletes.

Chelsea builds lead in standings by earning draw with West Ham

Frank Lampard drove home a twice retaken penalty against his former club as Chelsea came from behind to draw 1-1 at West Ham yesterday to move four points ahead at the top of the Premier League.

After Scott Parker blocked a header from Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic on the line, West Ham went ahead in the final minute of the first half. Ashley Cole brought down Jack Collison and Alessandro Diamanti drove home the penalty.

Chelsea equalized in the 61st minute after Matthew Upson was harshly judged to have brought down Daniel Sturridge even though the West Ham defender appeared to make contact with the ball.

Lampard twice fired home the spot kick but each time had to take it again because players from both teams had run into the penalty area. He had to beat goalkeeper Green for a third time.

"I didn't need that, especially after missing one a few weeks ago," said Lampard. "In the end I was pleased to see it at last in the back of the net."

Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti put his team's low-key performance down to the rigours of playing twice a week.

"We only started playing after 45 minutes," he said. "Maybe we played without intensity, and slowly. We didn't move the ball quickly in midfield.

"It's not the best time for us but every team has problems. There are a lot of matches, every three days, and it's not easy to maintain the concentration and strength."

Chelsea's second draw of the season means Carlo Ancelotti's team has 41 points from 18 games. Second place Manchester United has 37 after losing 3-0 at Fulham Saturday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hughes fired

- Mark Hughes has refuted reports that he was fired before Manchester City's victory over Sunderland and says he only heard about it after the final whistle.
- Man City issued a statement after Saturday's 4-3 victory that Hughes had been sacked and replaced by Roberto Mancini. Although there was speculation all day that Hughes was on the way out, he insisted he knew nothing about it until after the game.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Chicago 3 Detroit 0
St. Louis at Vancouver

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Montreal 3 N.Y. Islanders 0
Ottawa 4 Minnesota 1
TORONTO 2 Boston 0
Nashville 5 Calgary 3
Washington 4 Edmonton 2
Anaheim 4 Phoenix 2
Carolina 3 Florida 2
Colorado 5 Columbus 2
Dallas 4 Detroit 3
New Jersey 5 Atlanta 4
N.Y. Rangers 2 Philadelphia 1
Pittsburgh 2 Buffalo 1 (SO)

TODAY'S GAMES

Buffalo at TORONTO, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Florida at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Boston at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
San Jose at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Columbus at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

TORONTO 98 New Orleans 92
Boston 122 Minnesota 104
L.A. Lakers 93 Detroit 81
Memphis 102 Denver 96
Portland 102 Miami 95
Charlotte at New York
Cleveland at Dallas

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Chicago 101 Atlanta 98 (OT)
Houston 95 Oklahoma City 90
L.A. Clippers 112 Philadelphia 107 (OT)
L.A. Lakers 103 New Jersey 84
Orlando 92 Portland 83
Phoenix 121 Washington 95
San Antonio 100 Indiana 99
Sacramento 96 Milwaukee 95
Utah 110 Charlotte 102

TODAY'S GAMES

Milwaukee at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Utah at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Chicago, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Tennessee 27 Miami 24 (OT)
Arizona 31 Detroit 24
Atlanta 10 N.Y. Jets 7
Houston 16 St. Louis 13
New England 17 Buffalo 10
Cleveland 41 Kansas City 34
Oakland 20 Denver 19
San Diego 27 Cincinnati 24
Baltimore 31 Chicago 7
Tampa Bay 24 Seattle 7
Pittsburgh 37 Green Bay 36
Philadelphia 27 San Francisco 13
Minnesota at Carolina

SATURDAY'S RESULT

Dallas 24 New Orleans 17

TODAY'S GAME

N.Y. Giants at Washington, 8:30 p.m.

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Playing hooky with swine flu
A couple of university students interviewed by Maclean's admit to faking H1N1 in order to get out of class or exams, as schools across the country have revised their sick-note policies and encouraged students with flu-like symptoms to stay far away from campus, no questions asked. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

New site for N.S. university

The University of King's College has a new-look website. The site describes the Halifax-based institution as a "tightly-knit and extraordinarily lively academic community." On the site, visitors will find testimonials from past students, recent Twitter posts, event listings and news headlines. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

A Santa suit dresses up a third career

OddJobs

Diane Peters
Metronews.ca/oddjobs

There are few jobs that value a mature complexion, white beard and a somewhat stocky body type. But if you look the part, playing Santa like Bob McTavish does on a regular basis is a great job.

McTavish, 67, got his first gig as Santa five years ago when organizers of a Christmas party in Bala, near his home in Ontario's Muskoka region, needed someone last minute.

Word soon got around that McTavish "does Santa," and it took off from there.

This, of course, is not his first career. He started off in business, and worked in senior management for a various retail chains. Twenty years ago, he left corporate life and started up his own real estate brokerage for business clients.

Eight years ago, he moved from Toronto to Muskoka, renovated his dad's old cottage and was reconsidering his career options — the real estate business was slowing down — when the Santa work started.

"I was looking for something to take up the slack," says McTavish.

The jobs working parties and parades fit his schedule: it takes up much of the early winter while real estate gets busy in the spring.

In between, he swims, snowmobiles, travels and goes to the theatre.

Two years ago, he got a big break. One of the Santas at Santa's Village in Bracebridge passed away. McTavish now spends his summers there — and probably will for years to come.

"I'm reasonably young. I know another fellow who's 86 and he's been doing it for 16 years. This is a long term position."

This year, McTavish began working in malls. "I'm developing my Santa business just like I developed my real estate business."

It's harder work than parties and parades: the days are long and often run late (McTavish likes to rise early so he's beat by 8 p.m.).

And, surprisingly, his business experience helps with his new job. "I was trained in retail where I learned you have to treat the customer with incredible respect."

He often spoke in front of crowds for his job and he doesn't get stage fright.

At parties, he roams the room chatting with kids and adults, making sure everyone's happy. For parades (where he wears good quality long underwear), it's the most fun when he has a mike and can chat with the crowd.

At the village and at malls, it's all about one-on-one chats with kids, getting them to talk about what they want, what they're interested in, and getting into casual chats about cookies, Mrs. Claus and reindeer.

Bob McTavish dons his Santa suit to entertain the crowds.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Santa Claus
Salary: $250 to $500 a day or event
Education/training: There are a few Santa schools in North America, but he learned on the job.
Best Part of the Job: "Individual people, not always kids, who react with their eyes to you. You know someone is taking pleasure from what you're doing."
Worst Part of the Job: "Families who push kids beyond the point they should be pushed."

Nurse numbers up

The number of nurses working in Canada rose by 8.3 per cent between 2004 and last year, a new study indicates.

The report by the Canadian Institute for Health Information, released Friday, said the number of employed nurses reached 341,431.

"We're certainly encouraged by the number," said Rachel Bard, CEO of the Canadian Nurses Association.

"We've always said that nurses do bring solutions to the system, and this is certainly recognizing that nurses are part of the solution in the efforts to meet Canada's complex healthcare challenges."

The rate of growth for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses exceeded the rate of population growth over the past five years, while the registered psychiatric nurse workforce in Western Canada kept pace with population growth, the statistics show.

A positive development is an increase in the number of community health nurses and more nurses working in telehealth, Bard said.

The report said the proportion of registered nurses employed in the community health sector rose from 13.8 per cent in 2004, to 14.2 per cent in 2008

"We all know that we need to shift the locus of care, we need to reach people where they are, so registered nurses play a key role in supporting community and individuals in managing their own health," Bard said in an interview from Ottawa.

The Canadian population is aging, and there is a need to ensure there will be enough nurses to support elderly people in the years to come, she noted..

"You want to balance and really bring some self-sufficiency into the system," she said. "If I look at the number of nursing students that graduated in 2008, it was 9,113, but there's only a net gain of 3,008 nurses due to the retirement of the aging workforce, and people moving we're in the right direction when you look at the numbers, but we still need to be very vigilant in continuing to address it."

The report also found that the number of nurse practitioners rose to 1,626 last year from just 800 in 2004. Nurse practitioners provide care that can goes beyond that of a regular nurse — including diagnosis, ordering and interpreting tests and prescribing drugs and treatment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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'Bait laptop' program curbing computer thefts at SFU

Simon Fraser University is crediting a new program for reducing computer thefts at its Burnaby campus by over 30 per cent. Alarm-rigged laptops are placed around the campus library and are set off if picked up, alerting security personnel. METRO NEWS SERVICES

From co-worker to Facebook friend

It is one of the most socially awkward situations at the office.

You're talking to your boss or co-worker, when they casually ask to be your friend on Facebook.

You quickly think of the juicy comments posted on your wall, or that photo of you gulping margaritas in a bathing suit. Within seconds, you have to decide between saying 'yes' or finding a way to decline the offer without hurting anyone's feelings (or your chance at a promotion).

It has happened regularly to a 28-year-old public relations worker in Winnipeg we'll call Nathalie. She doesn't want her real name used for obvious reasons.

"Your boss doesn't need to see what you're doing on the weekend," she said.

"There are lines and there are boundaries. The only co-workers that are my Facebook friends are people that would be hanging out with me."

Nathalie has become rather adept at sidestepping workplace requests for Facebook friendship. She tells some co-workers she rarely uses Facebook. She has told others she would add them as friends, knowing she would not follow through, and has feigned ignorance in subsequent conversations.

Nathalie has also set her privacy settings so that she is hidden from people searching for her on Facebook. Her photos, writings and other material can only be viewed by her friends.

The workplace is gaining more of a presence on Facebook, MySpace and other social networking sites. Companies are starting to see value in having a presence on Web 2.0. Many have set up corporate Facebook pages and have let employees know that they can become fans — an action that can make your Facebook page more visible to co-workers.

Adding co-workers as Facebook friends has its issues.

But should you feel obliged to open your social network page to coworkers? Not necessarily, says one expert.

"You have the same obligation as you would have if they wanted to be invited to your home for cocktails or for a dinner party," said Arthur Schafer, a professor at the University of Manitoba's Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics.

"It might be prudent to promote collegial relations or to curry favour with the boss by socializing with them ... but you certainly have no obligation to."

Facebook has added new privacy options recently, allowing users to hide individual posts or pictures from specific friends. Of course, even if no one at work can see your Facebook page, they can still find out what's on it. It happened earlier this year to a twenty-something woman we'll call Susan, who also doesn't want her name used.

Susan was upset with what she felt was a lack of security and cleanliness at a community event in Winnipeg. She complained about it on her Facebook page, which is only visible to her 500-odd friends.

As it turns out, one of those friends was an employee of the event's organizers, who are clients of Susan's employer. Word got around and Susan found herself facing a tongue-lashing from her boss.

It raises the question, do employers have the right to discipline workers who slag them, the company or a client in quasi-public areas such as Facebook? In some cases, the answer seems to be yes.

"Do I have the right to discipline? I would say not, unless it's directly damaging to the company — saying 'This product is fraudulent,' for example," said John Melnyck, who teaches management ethics at the University of Winnipeg's business faculty.

Both professors agree that it is important to remember that anything posted online, even behind strict privacy settings, can make its way into the public sphere.

And that perhaps explains why people are reluctant to open their social networking pages to coworkers or superiors. Melnyck recently conducted an experiment on that front.

He asked students in one of his classes, en masse, to make him a friend on Facebook.

"It was a pretty even split of opinion," Melnyck chuckled. "Some people had no hesitation, other people said 'no way.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

College students vent online over strike threat

STRIKE Another looming campus strike, another Facebook backlash.

As 24 community colleges brace for a possible teachers' walkout in January, more than 11,500 students are expressing their fear and anger via the Facebook website, as York University students did last year during their 12-week shutdown.

"We don't want a strike to happen. My sister went to York last year and lost out on a summer job because of that strike," said Humber College's Graeme McNaughton, who created the Facebook group Ontario College Students Against A Strike.

Two days of talks ended Tuesday between Colleges Ontario and the Ontario Public Service Employees' Union, with no plans to resume.

The union, which acts for 9,000 full-time teachers, counsellors and librarians, has set a strike vote for Jan. 13.

A petition on the Facebook group page has collected more than 1,800 signatures calling on both sides to reach a deal without stoppages.

"I don't blame students for being angry and frustrated,"
Ted Montgomery, union negotiator

In Facebook discussions, students from Toronto to Sudbury are fretting about how a strike could affect their student loans — "I will lose my apartment where me, my two cats and three-month-old son are living," worries one — as well as graduation dates and retraining for laid-off workers.

"We're starting to have déjà vu from the last strike, when upset students would call us at 4 a.m." said Tyler Charlebois at the 200,000-strong College Student Alliance.

"With government retraining programs underway at many colleges, a strike could put serious stress on Ontario's economic recovery."

The union says it is fighting for academic freedom and more teacher control of workloads, but it became even more upset in November when the colleges exercised a new right to impose a contract after months of talks failed.

It provides an eight per cent raise over four years. The union wants seven and a half per cent over three years.

"I don't blame students for being angry and frustrated," said union negotiator Ted Montgomery. "But we don't want to go on strike. We're hoping for a settlement."

Ditto, says Rob Savage at Colleges Ontario. "We hope we can negotiate a deal." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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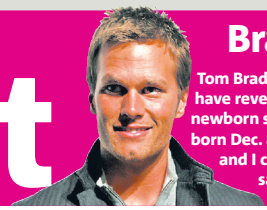
Theron has a new collection
Actress Charlize Theron has launched a new collection of footwear to raise money for impoverished children in her native South Africa. The star debuted her eco-friendly, limited-edition footwear, designed with TOMS Shoes, on Friday. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment



Brady Bunch
Tom Brady and Giselle Bundchen have revealed the name of their newborn son. Benjamin Brady was born Dec. 8. "Benjamin is a blessing and I could not be happier," Brady said. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Albums of the decade

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM
for Metro Canada

It was a decade that started with boy bands and Britney, and ended with Bob Dylan singing Here Comes Santa Claus.

In between, an endless stream of over-produced and under-talented Idol winners managed to keep the big record labels from drowning in a pool of self-inflicted ennui. Yet, through all of this, we managed to find some exceptionally fine music. Here are 10 records from the past 10 years you can feel good about having in your library.

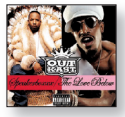
1. Foo Fighters, In Your Honor (2005): A double album shows the band at its best — plugged in and acoustic. It took on the other big double rock album of the decade — Stadium Arcadium by the Red Hot Chili Peppers — and won. With a string of radio friendly rockers, this is the album that made the Foo Fighters the top band of the decade.

2. Feist, The Reminder (2007): Some critics would place Feist's debut , Let It Die, above The Reminder. But let's face it, The Reminder put Feist at a higher level. It's also the album that broke the Canadian songstress internationally. These are well-crafted songs, written with style and originality, and sung in a uniquely alluring voice.

3. Coldplay, A Rush of Blood to the Head (2003): This is the album that single-handedly saved EMI from disaster. The piano riff on Clocks alone makes this album a must. Coldplay started the decade a U2/Radiohead wannabe and reached 2010 well ahead of both.

The Foo Fighters' (frontman Dave Grohl, shown) In Your Honor is one of the albums from the last decade you should own.

4. Outkast, Speakerboxxx/The Love Below (2003): This double album's two huge hits — Hey Ya and The Way You Move — broke hip hop through to the mainstream pop charts. At the same time, its retro leanings toward funk and soul spelled the end to the genre as we knew it in the '80s and '90s. Melody became as important as the beat.



5. Arcade Fire, Funeral (2004): Few were aware of the innovative indie-rock collectives that were thriving in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver until David Bowie stepped on stage with Arcade Fire at a New York gig in 2005. The world seemed to look at the Canadian indie scene differently after that.

6. Amy Winehouse, Back to Black (2006): Sometimes there's a reason why artists sweep the Grammys. Winehouse managed to reference four decades of R&B music while still sounding original. This album sparked a British retro-fad with a flurry of young Dusty Springfields finding chart success.

7. White Stripes, Elephant (2003): Who would have thought that there was anything left to say in rock 'n' roll until Jack White came along and managed to do what others couldn't with nothing but a drum kit, a guitar and a deft hand in the studio. This album proved that less can, indeed, be more. White has since managed to bring a touch of class to everything he touches.

8. Sam Roberts, We Were Born in a Flame (2003): It started with a six-song EP that cost the Montreal rocker just $65 to record. Two songs (Don't Walk Away Eileen and Brother Down) broke through after every major label turned them down. The three surprise Junos Sam received made us realize that there was more to Canadian rock 'n' roll than the Tragically Hip and Rush.

9. Kanye West, Graduation (2007): OK, he's a jerk. He's proved that over and over. But sometimes we have to let reality pass and just listen to the music. Kanye's third album brought everything together and made his tremendous ego a little more bearable.

10. Neil Young, Live at Massey Hall 1971 (2007): This spot was originally going to Ryan Adams' Gold (2001), which had a tremendous impact on a new breed of singer-songwriters, taking them back to their roots. Neil, however, is the real deal. He is their roots. And nothing had a bigger impact on young writers than the release of this remarkable concert album.

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holiday SERVICE SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 31
Weekday service extended until later than usual.
Subway and most routes start at 6:00 a.m.

Reduced morning peak period service.

Reduced afternoon peak period service, operating from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Most routes with late evening service continue until approximately 4:00 a.m.

Friday, January 1, 2010 SUNDAY SERVICE
Subway and most routes start at 9:00 a.m.
196 York University Rocket cancelled.

Saturday, January 2 SATURDAY SERVICE
Subway and most routes start at 6:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 3 SUNDAY SERVICE
Subway and most routes start at 9:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve last train details:
1 **Yonge-University-Spadina Subway** leaves Union Station at 3:30 a.m. for Finch Station and 3:34 a.m. for Downsview Station.
2 **Bloor-Danforth Subway** leaves Bloor-Yonge Station at 3:37 a.m. for Kipling Station and at 3:37 a.m. for Kennedy Station.
3 **Scarborough RT** leaves Kennedy Station at 4:05 a.m. for McCowan Station.
4 **Sheppard Subway** leaves Sheppard-Yonge Station at 3:58 a.m. for Don Mills Station.

FREE RIDE on the TTC on Jan 1, 2010 from 12:01 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.

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Twilight actor dons undies for Calvin Klein
Kellan Lutz is set to become the new face of Calvin Klein. The Twilight Saga: New Moon actor is reportedly being lined up to pose in his underwear for the fashion house. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Everyone's dancing to Indian pop beat

Music more common on albums of favourite artists, and also responsible for success of Desi Hits website

Jay Sean, 26-year-old British-Indian R&B celebrity, is now a worldwide success.

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

Twenty years ago, Indian pop was weirdly exotic. Not so anymore. Today artists like Jay-Z and Missy Elliot sound "Indian" — and even Britney Spears has an Indian producer.

When Jay Sean burst on the music scene several years ago, he was labeled an Indian artist.

"I think of myself simply as an R&B artist," the native Londoner tells Metro. "But just because you're Indian, people put you in a pigeonhole, and it's very hard to leave that pigeonhole."

Desi Hits founder Anjula Acharia-Bath

"I think of myself simply as an R&B artist. Just because you're Indian, people put you in a pigeonhole, and it's very hard to leave that pigeonhole."
Jay Sean

But Jay Sean — born Kamaljeet Singh Jhooti — has succeeded. His 2004 debut album sold two million copies; this year his U.S. debut single topped the Billboard Hot 100.

Slumdog Millionaire showed that Indian pop culture has crossover appeal. So does the Internet website Desi Hits (desihits.com), which has risen to prominence along with Jay Sean.

"Slumdog has had a huge impact on people's interest in Indian pop and rock, especially since music played such an important role in it," says Desi Hits founder Anjula Acharia-Bath.

"So many artists, like M.I.A., Timbaland and the Black-Eyed Peas use Indian music, but people didn't know it was Indian until they watched Slumdog."

Acharia-Bath, a young British woman of Indian origin, founded Desi Hits after moving to the U.S. several years ago, and has fast become an entertainment power-broker known for making matches between A-list fashion producers, musicians, actors and artists.

Desi Hits now has 1.2 million unique visitors per month, a 300-per-cent increase from one year ago.

Today Jay Sean lives in New York, but he often visits his parents' home region of Punjab.

"India has all these musical events going on," he says. "But the mainstream media doesn't cover them. There are lots of great festivals with 80,000 kids listening to a concert, but nobody outside India hears about it.

"The funny thing is, the music isn't that different," he said.

Up-and-coming music of Indian origin

- Kazz Kumar (kazzkumar.com): The first lady of the Sona Family group has decided to go solo and revamp her image. She is very Lady Gaga-like in her sound and look.
- Imran Khan (imrankhanworld.com): His debut album Unforgettable was the biggest selling urban Desi Hits album of the year.
- Jaya (jayaworld.com): Just signed to All Around the World, a sub-label of Universal Records. Releasing her first single Dj Do It Again soon.

Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to The Associated Press:

1. **Avatar:** $73 million US
2. **The Princess and the Frog:** $12.2 million
3. **The Blind Side:** $10 million
4. **Did You Hear About the Morgans:** $7 million
5. **The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** $4.4 million
6. **Invictus:** $4.2 million
7. **Disney's A Christmas Carol:** $3.4 million
8. **Up in the Air:** $3.1 million
9. **Brothers:** $2.6 million
10. **Old Dogs:** $2.3 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maci Bookout, 17, stars with her son Bentley on MTV's new reality show Teen Mom.

Guts and glory behind Teen Mom

TELEVSION Amber Portwood's lunch with a friend keeps getting interrupted by a crying baby. The problem is, the baby is Amber's. She packs up and leaves the restaurant before she can finish eating.

Quieting a fussy baby is all in a day's work for the 19-year-old and her co-stars on MTV's new reality show, Teen Mom (airing Tuesday nights). The show premiered to the highest rated series on the network in more than a year.

The girls on the show aren't strangers to cameras — they were also on MTV's 16 and Pregnant, which aired last summer. Teen Mom revisits the young mothers several months after giving birth.

"I really just wanted to show girls how hard it was to be a teen parent," says Maci Bookout, 17, of her decision to let her experience be filmed for TV.

Bookout was a popular high-school student with good grades and plans to go to college.

"I wanted girls who might get pregnant to see there are options out there to move forward with your life and still have goals," says Bookout, who plans to marry her baby's father and would like to have another child.

Not all the young women on Teen Mom chose to keep their babies. Catelynn Lowell, 17, for example, gave her daughter up for adoption last May.

"It was difficult because that's my daughter. . . . I knew in my heart it was the best (decision) so I just went forward with it," she says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He's coach Snoop

Ex-gang member inspires football athletes

Football has long been the athletic stepchild at inner-city Crenshaw High School. Trophy cases are crammed with basketball awards. Gym walls are lined with hoops championship flags.

But the football team is undefeated this season and took part in the California state championship bowl game on the weekend. The coach attributes part of the success to an unlikely off-field source: rapper Snoop Dogg.

Nine of this year's Crenshaw High School Cougars went through the five-year-old Snoop Youth Football League, representing the first crop of varsity players to cut their teeth in the program. The league has produced standouts at other schools, but none has more players or a better record than Crenshaw.

The league has made Snoop Dogg, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, a saviour of sorts for football in an impoverished area of Los Angeles where gangs roam many of the streets.

"It is more of an advantage to have kids who played in the Snoop Dogg league," coach Robert Garrett said. "They also have the experience, the fundamentals and the attitude that guys who started from scratch don't have."

Former gang member Snoop Dogg gave $1.3 million.

Broadus's reputation for raunchy lyrics and run-ins with the law brought some initial apprehension from the mostly single mothers who wanted to enrol their sons. "It was kind of hard to separate Snoop Dogg the entertainer from Snoop Dogg the coach, the father," league Commissioner Haamid Wadood said.

But the league soon caught on, especially when fathers with criminal records learned they could coach, unlike most other youth sports. Broadus, himself a former gang member, has several convictions for drugs and weapons offences.

Broadus, 38, launched the league in 2005 with $1 million of his own money after noticing that much of urban Los Angeles had no football for boys ages 5 to 13. He's since invested about $300,000, Wadood said. The league now has 2,500 kids enrolled.

Broadus, who was promoting his new album Malice in Wonderland this week, would not comment. The rapper attends games and allows his bodyguards to let players approach him freely. Those intangibles, said coach Garrett, are invaluable.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's finally over for Jon&Kate

TELEVISION Jon and Kate Gosselin officially divorced Friday after 10 years of marriage, eight children and a year of tabloid headlines.

Kate Gosselin gets the family home in eastern Pennsylvania in the no-fault divorce agreement, according to her lawyer, Mark Momjian. She will also continue as the primary caretaker of the reality TV couple's nine-year-old twins and five-year-old sextuplets.

"Divorce is always a difficult process, and in this case there's obviously the added challenge of being a celebrity and having to deal with the reality of such a large family," Momjian said.

Jon's lawyer, Mark Jay Heller, was travelling Friday and not available for comment, a spokesperson said. The divorce agreement was first reported by TMZ.com.

"I look forward to the new year, focusing on the children."
Kate Gosselin

The Gosselins — he is 32, she is 34 — worked out custody arrangements themselves but let an arbiter decide financial issues, Momjian said.

They filed for divorce in June, the same month they told viewers of TLC's Jon&Kate Plus 8 about the split in an episode seen by more than 10 million people. At the time, the Gosselins said the show had been a good thing for both them and their children, and they denied it played a role in their divorce.

TLC has said it is developing a show for her that could debut this spring. Details have not been disclosed.

In a statement issued by her lawyer's firm, Kate Gosselin called the marital breakup difficult.

"I am very relieved that our divorce has been finalized, and I look forward to the new year, focusing on the children," said Kate Gosselin, a former nurse.

"This has been a challenging transition for all of us."

The final Jon&Kate Plus 8 episode aired Nov. 23.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Dance Crew judge faces molestation charge

America's Best Dance Crew judge Shane Sparks has been arrested in Los Angeles and charged with eight felony counts of child molestation, TMZ is reporting. The Los Angeles Police Department took Sparks into custody Friday morning. POPEATER.COM

Famous last tweets

Celeb 'qwittering' does not signal the fall of a social network

Ah, the celebrity "qwitter": An apt Gawker-coined phrase for the "Sorry, that page doesn't exist" of a recently deleted celebrity Twitter account.

Inspired by last week's "GOODBYE!!!!!!!!!!!!" tweet from the beleaguered Chris Brown (who was convinced that his latest release Graffiti was being "blackballed" by his label and retail outlets after pleading guilty to assaulting then-girlfriend Rihanna), prompted the popular media gossip site to post A Celebrity Guide to Qwittering.

Whereas Brown received a "DO" for having the courtesy to leave behind a goodbye tweet, Gawker's Azaria Jagger called his too transparent goodbye a "DON'T": The inherently petty nature of Twitter will make your reason seem even pettier; if you let people know what it is, you will only emphasize the ludicrous and/or self-important drama that preceded your qwitter.

Brown isn't the only celebrity qwitter: Despite a campaign to bring her back to Twitter, Miley Cyrus stood firm by her "Sorry, that page doesn't exist!" with a rap music video posted on YouTube (a sample lyric: "And the reasons are simple, I started tweeting about pimples, I stopped living for moments and started living for people").

From Trent Reznor to Lil' Wayne, formerly avid celebrity tweeple are increasingly giving up on the 140 character statements. Often, it's an immediate reaction to the fall-out caused by regrettable tweets or updates, like Courtney Love's shutdown after posting a series of inflammatory tweets.

Obviously loose lips can sink ships. No longer protected by a publicist (or allowed to blame the reporter for a misquote), celebrities must deal with the embarrassment of the classic not-thinking-before-you-post mistake, or even the consequence of twitter-jacked fake accounts that veer between satirical and reputation damaging.

Does this mean that qwittering celebrities signals Twitter's 2010 failure? The very thing we criticize Twitter for — egocentric personal branding, anyone? — could be the site's saving grace.

There is real value in celebrities' tweets; possibly even equivalent to yesteryear's tabloid paparazzi shots. If the new PR game for celebrities is to ensure that they're producing a steady stream of reactions and the odd off-colour remark for the entertainment rags, then maybe Twitter will be yet another channel for our entertainment news — but coming directly from the celebrities themselves.

Chris Brown has pulled the plug on his Twitter account.

Real Celebs

- Want to know your real celebrities? Follow @TruthTweet, a Twitter account that tracks verified celebrity twitter accounts. Recent finds include singers @AnneMurray1 and Kelis (@iamkelis).

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Trump files for divorce

Ivana Trump was hoping the fourth time would be the charm when it comes to marriage. No such luck. The socialite and former Mrs. Donald filed for divorce Friday from Italian guy Tossano Rubicondi, citing their busy schedules and time apart. **POPEATER.COM**

Entertainment in brief

LEGAL Rapper Lil Wayne and 11 people travelling with him were briefly detained Friday night after U.S. Border Patrol officers found marijuana on two of his tour buses, authorities said. Lil Wayne, whose real name is Dwayne Carter, and the others were questioned and released, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the case was referred to the Brooks County Sheriff's Office. The tour buses were stopped in Falfurrias, about 80 miles southwest of Corpus Christi, where the rapper is scheduled to perform Sunday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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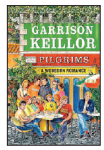


Pilgrims

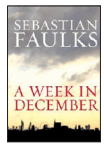
Author: Garrison Keillor
Publisher: Faber & Faber
Price: $24 (Paperback)

SET IN LAKE Wobegon, the town noted American radio personality Garrison Keillor put on the map in his past works Lake Wobegon Days and Lake Wobegon Summer 1956, Pilgrims arrives at a point of uncertainty in Margie and Carl Krebsbach's relationship. In her attempt to conquer their sexual drought, Margie plans a trip to Rome under the pretense of tidying the unkempt grave of a local boy who died there during the city's 1944 liberation. But her travel plans are grounded when a host of colourful locals warm to the idea and want to tag along, foiling her chances for the personal connection she wanted.

A Good Fall

Author: Ha Jin
Publisher: Pantheon
Price: $29.95 (Hardcover)

IN HIS LATEST collection of stories, Chinese author Ha Jin enters the immigrant experience, focusing on Chinese characters in America and their feelings of being torn between two national identities. Children as Enemies follows young people inclined to change their names to appear more "American", to the upset of their grandfather. Immigrants unable to bring their husbands or wives to America are central to In Temporary Love, a story that explores the connection of the divided. Jin's stories are told with precision and passion, presenting stories that hone in on intimate feelings and distress felt existing in a foreign world.



A Week in December

Author: Sebastian Faulks
Publisher: Hutchinson
Price: $34.95 (Hardcover)

BRITISH WRITER Sebastian Faulks tries to decongest metropolitan English life in his latest novel, A Week in December. The story is made even more critical by its air of "faction," a work masking real characters and events with fiction. The comical book unfolds during one week in December 2007, and follows a party planning by an MP and his wife. The invited guests — who include high finance heads, a journalist and a football player — bring their stories to the pages. They tie together themes like greed and religious fundamentalism, contrasted with the global financial crisis.

Brian Coulton/for Metro Canada

BookPicks

Gibson retires from ABC News

Gibson

CAREER Considered one way, Charles Gibson's career in TV news seems to be a model of stability: 34 years logged with one employer, ABC. There, he did his job well and rose to the top echelon of his profession, forming a firm bond with his viewers and offering his gracious signoff, "I hope you had a good day."

On the other hand, Gibson, who retired Friday from the World News anchor desk and from ABC as a full-time employee, is bowing out as more than an admired network news star.

At 66, he's a proven utility player, game to handle a range of positions and scramble to the rescue when needed.

In an orderly and low-key passing of the torch, Dianne Sawyer will replace him today at the World News anchor desk.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

TECHNOLOGY Hackers briefly blocked access to the popular Internet messaging service Twitter overnight, steering traffic to another website where a group reportedly calling itself the "Iranian Cyber Army"' claimed responsibility. Users trying to reach Twitter early Friday were redirected to a webpage that CNN reported had a picture of a green flag and a message that said, "This site has been hacked by the Iranian Cyber Army." There was no evidence the hackers are actually linked to Iran.

FILM Captain EO is moonwalking back to Disneyland. The theme park announced plans Friday to bring back the 3-D sci-fi film starring Michael Jackson next February, over 23 years after the attraction debuted in Anaheim, Calif. The 17-minute film starred the late King of Pop as a singing-and-dancing intergalactic commander. It was directed by Francis Ford Coppola.

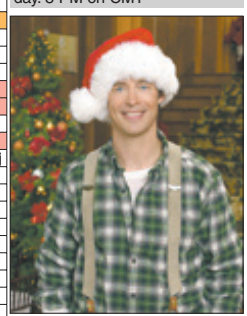
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

to	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/21/09	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team (N)		The Best of The Agenda		Midsomer Murders		D-Day to Berlin		Best-Agenda
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "Epic Fail"		Lie to Me (HDTV)		Holmes in New Orleans		News Final
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Just for Laughs (N)		The Hour Holiday Special (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Murdoch Mysteries (HDTV)		How I Met	Accidentally	Mercy (HDTV)		The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	*Paradise City: Degrassi Goes Hollywood* (2009) (DVS)				Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	Pinocchio's Christmas		Yes, Virginia	*Die Hard* ★★★ (1988, Action) Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia.					News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King/Queens	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	The Insider (N)	George Lopez	*Christmas Comes to Willow Creek* ★★ (1987, Drama)				The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	The Sing-Off "The Finale" The winning group is revealed.				The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	I Want a Dog for Christmas		Find My Family (N)		Castle (HDTV)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Rita MacNeil's Cape Breton		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	House "Epic Fail"		Lie to Me (HDTV)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow (N)		Great Performances (HDTV)				Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	One Tree Hill (HDTV)		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News (N)	Frasier	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill
news	502	390	26	NW	Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		The Life of JK Rowling		National
	500	500	33	CNN	CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (Live)		The Oprah Effect		Biography on CNBC		How I Made My Millions		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	NHL Hockey Buffalo Sabres at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Monday Night Countdown		NFL Football New York Giants at Washington Redskins. (HDTV) (Live)					
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	81	SC	Pass Time	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
family	551	542	25	YTV	*Merry Christmas*		*Scrooged* ★★★ (1988, Comedy) Bill Murray.				Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline Proj
	554	544	45	TEL	*Jack Frost* ★★ (1998, Fantasy) Michael Keaton.				Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	*Borrowed Hearts* (1997, Drama) Roma Downey.				*Eve's Christmas* (2004, Comedy-Drama) Elisa Donovan.				Maxed Out
	570	580	29	MM	Secret Life of American Teen		House	Selena Gomez	So You Think You Can Dance		So You Think You Can Dance		MuchOnDem
	615	520	31	A&E	Intervention "Laney"		Intervention "John C."		Intervention "Rob" (N)		Hoarders (HDTV) (N)		Hoarders
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	I Liceali				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Fabulous Life Of...		Entourage	Wild 'n Out	Ranked!
	575	583	38	CMT	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		*Snow 2 Brain Freeze* (2008, Comedy) Tom Cavanagh.				Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Doc
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		*His and Her Christmas* (2005, Comedy-Drama)				Bones		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	The Carol Project		Johnny Cash Christmas		Yo-Yo Ma: The Making of Songs of Joy & Peace				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Last 10	Last 10	Instant Beauty Pageant		Plastic Makes	Plastic-Perfect	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Convoy: War of the Atlantic		Patton 360		Battles BC		The Lost Book of Nostradamus		
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	22 Minutes	The Simpsons	South Park	To Be Announced		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	House Poor (N)	My First Place	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*Getting Played* (2005, Romance-Comedy)		
	576	582	49	BET	Frankie-Neffe	Frankie-Neffe	*ATL* ★★ (2006, Comedy-Drama) Tip Harris, Lauren London.					Monica: Still	Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Sea Ghost* (2004, Horror) Billy Warlock. (DVS)				Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	MTV Cribs	Teen Cribs	Real World-Road Rules		Teen Mom		Super Sweet	Teen Cribs	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Raymond	Raymond	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	Comeback	Family Guy	Raymond	Raymond
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	David Rocco	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives		Top Chef: Las Vegas		Dinner: Impossible		Iron Chef Am.
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		My Husband	No Place Like	*Miracle of the Heart* (2005, Drama) Neil Patrick Harris.				Tabernacle
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (HDTV)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Barbie	Bob the Builder: Snowed		Night Garden	Little Bear	Max & Ruby	A Very Fairy Christmas		Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case		Missing "Last Night"		The Closer		Cold Case		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	*Confessions of a Shopaholic*		Sanctuary "The Five"		Dexter (HDTV)		Californication	U.S. of Tara	Lock 'n Load
	305	612	306	PIX	*Rat Race*	(7:20) *The Fall* ★ (1998, Suspense)			*The Mask of Zorro* ★★★ (1998, Adventure) Antonio Banderas.				
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		MythBusters		Dirty Jobs "Tofu Maker" (N)		Man vs. Wild "Namibia"		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	First Class All the Way		FashionTele	RAW	Canada's Next Top Model		FashionTele	FashionTele	1st Class Way

critics'corner

Snow 2 Brain Freeze

Some of the "new Santa" movies of recent years — such as "The Santa Clause" — have been tolerable, but this universe, first seen in 2004's "Snow," pushes the limits of what those of us raised on the traditional Santa lore can swallow. In this sequel, the jolly not-so-old elf gets amnesia three days before Christmas, and it's up to his lovely Mrs. to save the day. 8 PM on CMT



Eve's Christmas

The "It's a Wonderful Life" story gets a different twist in this holiday drama. A successful but lonely advertising executive wishes she could change some things in her past. And guess what; it's Christmas Eve, a night for wishes coming true. 9 PM on W

The Big Bang Theory

The holidays aren't very merry for Leonard when a handsome colleague begins dating Penny, while Sheldon drives everyone nuts trying to master the nuances of gift-giving etiquette in "The Bath Item Gift Hypothesis." 9:31 PM on CTV CBS

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt

Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

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metronews.ca/movies

Knowles' parents file for divorce
Tina Knowles filed for divorce from Mathew Knowles in November, a source close to the showbiz family confirms to usmagazine.com recently. The parents to Beyonce and Solange Knowles have been married for 29 years. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Pattinson and Stewart spotted in Venice Beach

DINING OUT Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart failed to go unnoticed recently when they headed out to enjoy a nice dinner together in Los Angeles' Venice Beach neighborhood.

"It looked like they were on a nice stroll through the neighborhood," a source tells E! News. "They seemed really just into hanging together. They weren't holding hands, but were really sweet with each other."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Jonas brother Kevin gets hitched at swanky estate

ISN'T THAT SWEET? In a setting fit for a Disney prince and his princess, Kevin Jonas married Danielle Deleasa Saturday night at Oheka Castle, a turn-of-the-century French-style chateau, on a sprawling estate in Long Island, people.com reports.

"We're so happy that we're finally married and we were able to share the special moment with family, friends and loved ones," the couple tells People.

Though a blizzard threatened the festivities, the wedding attended by 400 family members and friends, including Demi Lovato, went forward as scheduled.

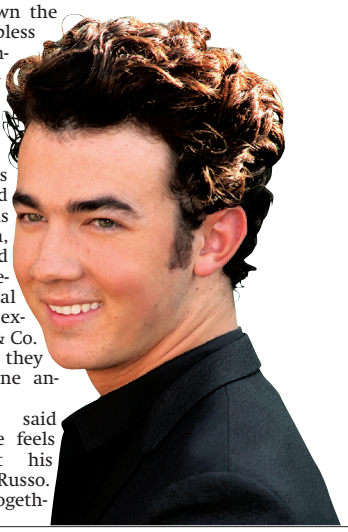
"The snow only made it look more like a winter wonderland," said Michael Russo, a celebrity event planner of Roses-n-Lollipops, who for Saturday's event created a fairy-tale forest under heated white tents, complete with 14-foot trees draped in hydrangeas and crystals made to look like icicles.

"Danielle looked like a princess," he said. When she walked down the aisle in her strapless tulle and Chantilly lace Vera Wang gown, "Kevin couldn't stop smiling," said Russo.

With his brothers, Joe and Nick serving as his best men, Kevin, 22, and Danielle, 23, recited traditional vows and exchanged Jacob & Co. wedding bands they designed for one another.

"Kevin has said many times he feels like he met his princess," says Russo. "To see them together you can feel the warmth and the love all around them. They are just perfect for each other."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Michael Lohan wants better pals for Lindsay

BECAUSE HE HAS SET SUCH A STELLAR EXAMPLE Michael Lohan hopes that a higher class of friends is just the thing daughter Lindsay Lohan needs to keep her on the straight and narrow. So Lindsay being spotted last week at the same party as Leonardo DiCaprio is a good thing, he tells Hollyscoop.

"They have been friends for years," Michael says. "Mark Wahlberg, Robert Downey Jr., Leonardo DiCaprio and a few others. I think they have a lot of positive things to offer."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Stan Lee likes to brag, Jordin Sparks is not enjoying winter, Joel McHale gives you detailed updates, and Russell Simmons is aiming higher.

- @smilinstanlee So far I've taken pix with 3 presidents, Clinton, Reagan and Bush. I often wonder how this country could ever have run without me.
- @TheRealJordin I hate the cold. And I have a cold. Ha. A cold in the cold. Great. Soup time!
- @joelmchale There's a woman placing Korean food in front of me right now.
- @UncleRUSH Yogis believe the ultimate payoff "heaven"can be realized on earth. This enlightenment is your birthrite .

METRO WORLD NEWS

Water park upsets neighbours

HER PARK WILL GO ON Celine Dion has upset neighbours over plans to build a water park in her home, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 41-year-old singer has reportedly enraged local residents who are less than impressed with her vision for the new addition to her $12.5 million property.

A source said: "There will be two giant pools, several waterslides and a lazy river, much like an amusement park." While Dion's eight-year-old son Rene-Charles and the rest of her extended family might be happy, some of the neighbours have made it quite clear they're not happy with her plans.

A local resident told the National Enquirer magazine: "It's totally distasteful and demeans the whole area."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Divorce papers filed

SPLITSVILLE Three months after announcing their separation, Deane Sheremet has filed for divorce from country star LeAnn Rimes, according to Los Angeles court papers people.com reports.

Sheremet cites "irreconcilable differences" for the end of their nearly eight-year marriage, which crumbled when Rimes began a relationship with actor Eddie Cibrian, who also was married at the time to Brandi Glanville (Cibrian and Glanville are also divorcing.)

Sheremet, 29, is seeking spousal support from Rimes, 27, and wants her to pay the attorney fees, according to the papers, which were filed Thursday in Superior Court. The pair have no children.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Jacko tribute scrapped

ONCE AGAIN Jermaine Jackson's global tribute to his late brother Michael has been scrapped for the second time, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Organizers at World Awards Media, led by the King of Pop's older brother, cancelled a Vienna, Austri, concert in September after struggling to secure stars to perform at the event. The show was rescheduled for London next summer.

The latter concert appeared to be in trouble after an executive decision to dissolve the company behind the project was made last month. Martin Schneider, liquidator for the organizers, said: "The company cannot sign any new contracts and will certainly not plan any new events."

Now Jermaine Jackson has declined to forge ahead with the show, which was to initially feature Mary J. Blige, Chris Brown and veteran singer Natalie Cole.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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370

The Weather Network
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Today Variable -3°/ -11°

Tuesday Partly cloudy -4° / -10°

Wednesday Partly cloudy -4° / -7°

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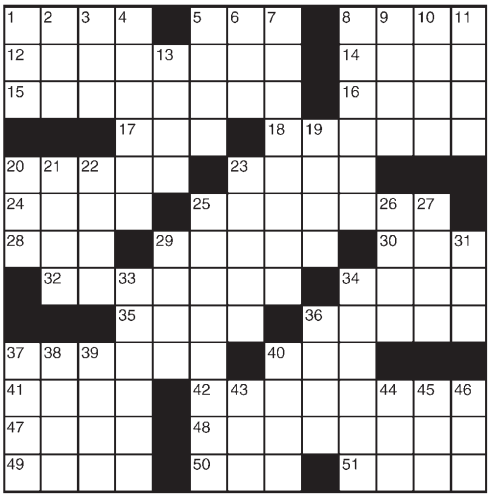
Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**



ACROSS

1 Pinza of "South Pacific"
5 "Give — break!"
8 Dweeby type
12 "The View" co-host
14 Old Italian money
15 Source of great wealth
16 Press
17 — Bon Jovi
18 Most recent
20 For a specific purpose
23 Platter
24 Nitwit
25 Tennessee city
28 Right angle
29 Funnyman Jerry
30 Medic, familiarly
32 Compose in print
34 Medal earner
35 Wan
36 Substantial
37 Where originally located
40 Motorists' org.
41 Crucifix
42 Yukon event
47 African antelope
48 Report-card sticker, maybe
49 Break suddenly
50 Computer file suffix
51 Danson et al.

DOWN

1 Early bird?
2 Menagerie
3 Under the weather
4 Goldfinger ally
5 Chicken chow —
6 Compass point suffix
7 "18 or older" provision
8 Snafu
9 Ireland
10 Greek Cupid
11 Philosopher Immanuel
13 University VIP
19 Poisonous snakes
20 Mr. Lincoln
21 Foolish one
22 Sacred
23 One of Donald Duck's nephews
25 Crazy, in Yiddish
26 Concept
27 Kind
29 For fear that
31 Coquettish
33 Settled a debt
34 "Citizen Kane" inspiration
36 Anti-DUI org.
37 Annoys
38 Verb counterpart
39 Carbonated drink
40 "— Well That Ends Well"
43 "Alley- —!"
44 Multipurpose truck
45 Despondent
46 Day fractions (Abbr.)

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		3				8		
		6	9		4	7		
9				2				1
	8	9	6		2	1	7	
	7	2	5		1	3	4	
8				7				2
		7	3		9	5		
		1				6		

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

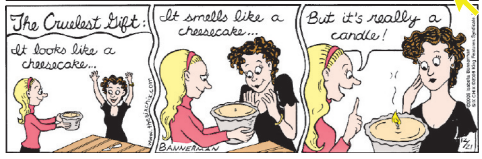
A	B	S	■	C	L	A	W	■
D	A	Y	■	O	A	T	H	■
S	Y	N	O	N	Y	M	Y	■
■	■	D	Y	E	S	■	■	■
A	C	R	E	S	■	M	I	C
B	O	O	R	■	S	I	G	H
L	A	M	■	C	A	N	O	E
E	X	E	C	U	T	O	R	■
■	■	■	U	S	E	R	■	■
R	O	A	R	S	■	■	S	T
A	V	I	V	■	S	Y	N	O
M	A	D	E	■	H	E	I	R
S	L	E	D	■	E	S	P	Y

R	O	M	E	■	■	■	■	■
E	V	I	L	■	■	■	■	■
H	E	M	S	■	■	■	■	■
A	E	R	I	E	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	A	■	■	■	■
S	I	G	H	T	S	E	E	■
Y	M	A	■	■	■	■	■	■
K	N	I	T	■	■	■	■	■
S	E	A	T	S	■	■	■	■
T	E	P	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	Y	N	O	P	S	I	S	■
H	E	I	R	■	E	L	K	■
E	S	P	Y	■	S	L	Y	■

2	5	4	3	9	1	6	7	8
6	1	8	4	7	5	2	3	9
7	9	3	2	8	6	4	1	5
1	2	6	9	4	3	8	5	7
8	3	5	7	1	2	9	4	6
4	7	9	6	5	8	3	2	1
3	6	7	5	2	9	1	8	4
5	8	2	1	6	4	7	9	3
9	4	1	8	3	7	5	6	2

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Baked Rosemary Monkfish

INGREDIENTS:

1 Tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
Two 1/2 lb (250 g) monkfish fillets (membrane removed)
2 garlic cloves, quartered
2 fresh rosemary sprigs, broken up
1 lime
2 Tbsp (25 mL) butter
4 tomatoes, halved

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Cut two pieces of foil, each large enough to enclose a piece of monkfish. Brush foil with a little oil.
2. Put one monkfish fillet on each piece of foil. Make small slits all over fish. Push garlic pieces and rosemary sprigs into slits.
3. Grate lime zest over fish. Trim off lime ends, then cut into four thick slices. Squeeze some drops of lime juice over fish, then lay slices on top of fillets. Dot with butter and season to taste.
4. Put tomatoes, cut side up, alongside fish. Fold up foil to enclose fish and tomatoes and seal edges.
5. Put parcels on baking tray and bake 10 minutes. Open foil and bake until fish is opaque and cooked through. Test with point of knife. Cut each piece of fish in half and transfer to plates with tomatoes. Pour over juices from parcels and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You will totally disagree with what you are told today. You can't take seriously something that is so outrageous.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
According to the planets you are expecting too much of yourself and must adjust your ambitions to a more reasonable level.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't waste time on petty arguments. You should be channeling your energy in productive directions, not debating issues of no real importance.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You will have to make some kind of financial adjustment over the next 24 hours, most likely because you have bitten off more than you can chew.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
If you embellish the truth in any way, shape or form you will almost certainly be found out – and that could be embarrassing later in the week.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Try not to provoke an argument or confrontation today because it is unlikely to go in your favor.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Is something you thought was as real as it comes an illusion after all? That is the question you will be asking yourself today.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Listen to what others have to tell you today but don't think you have to think or do as they say.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
With Jupiter, your ruler, aspecting Neptune, planet of illusion, today you will find it hard to make up your mind about what you should be doing.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You will have some wonderful ideas and insights as the new week begins but don't be too eager to put them to the test because this is a time for thinking.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Cosmic activity in and around your birth sign means there will be so much going on in your world that you find it hard to get your head around it.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Try not to take your doubts and fears too seriously – they are no more than negative manifestations of your over-active imagination.

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